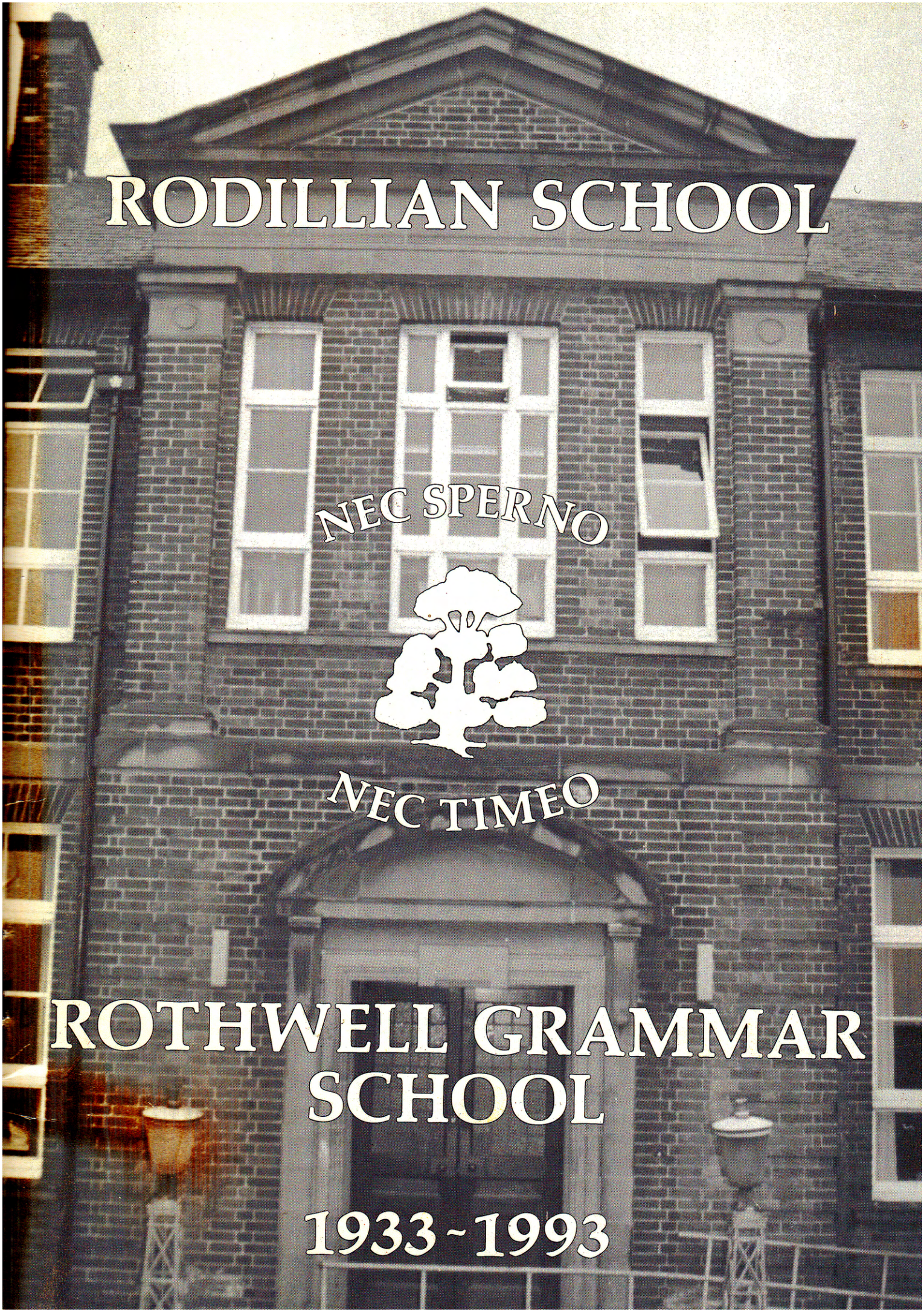
RODILLIAN SCHOOL
NEC SPERNO
NEC TIMEO
ROTHWELL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
1933 - 1993

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The school would like to thank the following people who have contributed to the creation of this record of events in the first sixty years of Rothwell Grammar / Rodillian School:

V. Allen (nee Hall)
R. Atkin
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J. Barnes
J. Bedford
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Thank you

J. Heald

FORWARD

NEC SPERNO, NEC TIMEO

"It is this fact, that we are at the beginning of things, which lays a special responsibility on all of us...In the future, newcomers will enter an atmosphere already formed and to the influence of which they will be subject. If they find a feeling of freedom, of pleasure in work and sport, and of mutual respect, they will come very soon to regard that state of affairs as natural and inevitable." So wrote the Editor in the first issue of the magazine. In 1993 we know that for 60 years pupils and staff have flourished in that atmosphere which the pioneers formed.

Rodillian is obviously so much larger than the infant R.G.S., its recruitment of pupils so changed, its syllabuses and examinations so altered, and its facilities so enlarged that early pupils may think that nothing can remain of the school community they cherish in their memories. Changes there have been as social, political and educational philosophies have altered.

The early grammar school, open both to winners of County Minor Scholarships and to fee-payers who passed the School's entrance examination, offered opportunities beyond those available to the majority, most of whom attended the same "through school" from 3-14. For many families it was a sacrifice to send a son or daughter to grammar school, to promise to keep them there until 16 and to face the hidden costs of such education. But for so many of us the doors were being opened to skilled occupations, for so long the preserves of those whose parents could afford an education beyond that for so long considered suitable for the children of the labouring poor.

The ending of fees in schools such as Rothwell meant that grammar school education became free for all who could pass the 11+, and the annual admission grew from 80 or so in the late 'thirties to 90, then 105, and eventually 120. The provision of maintenance grants for some sixth formers led to more County Major Scholarships and eventually the availability of grants for all who could obtain university places. Many families for whom Sixth Form, let alone University, had been beyond the educational horizon could now allow their sons and daughters to continue their studies to the limits of their abilities, and fewer pupils felt obliged to leave at 16 or even earlier to make their contributions to the family incomes, whatever their own or school's assessment of their potential.

Secondary education for all from 11 to 16 had been proclaimed in 1944. Growing doubts about selection at 11+ whether by examination or by the "Thorne Scheme", designed to achieve the same selection with less strain on the primary schools, the splitting of families and the community by allocation to different schools some of which were thought more equal than others whatever the intention - all led to forms of comprehensive education. It was seen as a further extension of the principle of equality of opportunity by allowing all pupils to develop in ways suiting their aptitudes and abilities.

For a school such as Rothwell the challenge was real but not the first. In the 'thirties the task had been to establish a new school in a community that knew more of depression and social problems than of school uniforms, Latin and School Certificate. It was no sooner established than war brought new problems, and after the war expansion brought new opportunities and pressure on space. Now, in 1974, there was to be a further stage of evolution - not a revolution rejecting the earlier years nor a grudging resentment of the newcomers. The staff, whether grammer school stalwarts or eager new arrivals, taught across the ability range and gave in time and energy, as they had always done, far more than anyone in authority could have ordered or demanded. As the School had tried to meet the needs of first generation grammar school pupils, so new methods were adapted, examinations and syllabuses reconsidered and, perhaps, the curriculum was orientated more towards child than subject. If a headteacher could no longer know all the pupils, then form tutors and year tutors did - I sometimes felt that more was indeed known of every child and his or her background than in the grammar school in the 'fifties and 'sixties. In that 'hidden curriculum' which has always done so much to educate beyond the limitations of timetable, in the mutual respect shown by most members of the community, in the concern to open eyes and ears to wider experiences and in the commitment to extend opportunities, there has been, and need be, no change of principle or aim.

Steel pen-knibs and ink monitors have gone (Do you remember the fury raised by the first messy ball-point pens?); log tables and slide rules have given way to calculators and computer keyboards; caps, boaters and gymslips have gone out of fashion. But more Sixth Formers than ever are actively involved in the affairs of junior forms; it is still the proud boast of campers that they have always been welcomed back as friends wherever the tents have been pitched; more pupils than ever turn out for school teams; rugby, hockey, football, basketball and badminton still represent the school with distinction, and if the Headteacher could say of the first school plays that costumes and scenery were made by his wife, by the daughter of the Chairman and by the University representative on the Governing Body, the producer of the 1992 play could be proud to have involved 25 members of staff, 80 pupils and many parents.

For 60 years R.G.S./Rodillian has met and overcome problems and difficulties in the spirit of its motto. It can face the coming of the millennium in the same spirit, recognising its debt to those who were there "at the beginning of things" and with each resolved to "give the best of what she or he is to shape their future."

NUMBER IN SCHOOL

	PUPILS	TEACHERS
1933-34	81	4
1942-43	296	16
1952-53	455	22
1962-63	548	25
1972-73	687	38
1982-83	1143	71
1992-93	792	50
1993-94	873	52

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

1933-39

Rothwell Grammar School opened in September, 1933, with a staff of four assistant masters and mistresses and two visiting teachers, and a mere 81 pupils. The intimacy of this first year inevitably disappeared to some extent, but the type of personal relationship between staff, pupils and parents has remained. It is remarkable that in this first year appeared almost all those extra-curricular activities which have since become an integral part of school life, especially so in view of the fact that teachers, because of their small numbers, were having to take subjects other than their own.

The first year saw two concerts and two camps. The house system also came into being at the beginning of the first year and indeed the part it played in school life was far more important than it is today. Originally it was intended that the four houses should be named after the four Saxon freeholders in the Rothwell area named in Domesday book, but as Harold, Bared, Alric and Stainulf do not make easily pronounced battle-cries the idea was abandoned. Mr. Manley's idea was then to "choose people who had achieved fame by a lifetime of effort in some cause not calculated to give great popularity, but demanding complete devotion to the work in hand and moral courage of the highest order". The final choices were Livingstone, Faraday, Nightingale and Grenfall.

Soon after the opening of the school the Parent Teacher Association was formed. Meetings for discussion of problems were arranged for the first Monday in each term. But the P.T.A. has not confined itself to this kind of activity alone and its work in raising funds to provide greater facilities for the school has been of equal importance. In July 1934 the Association held its first garden party which was the first of many held in subsequent years up to the outbreak of war. On this occasion Mr. Turner announced that the object of the function was to raise funds for a school swimming pool. This never materialized, but as a result of the P.T.A.'s efforts a cinder track was laid a few years later. This and many other contributions to the school were made at a time when short time and unemployment were commonplace in the area and when parents could ill-afford the expense.

The foundation of school games was similarly laid during the first year. In addition to maintaining the rugby, hockey and cricket pitches, Mr. Merry, the groundsman, coached the rugby team. Coming to the games for the first time and playing against much older boys, the school team inevitably had little success during its first season, but during the 1934-35 season the work which Mr. Merry had put in began to bear fruit and the success of hockey and cricket teams followed the same pattern. By the time the first speech-day came along the school was firmly established and the intentions of those who guided its progress had begun to be realized as a result of the leadership of Mr. Turner and Mr. Manley and the cooperation between staff, scholars, parents and governors. On the first speech-day some interesting predictions were made. Sir Percy Jackson (chairman of the W. R. education committee) said that he expected the school-leaving age to be raised to sixteen within the next ten years and announced that R.G.S. might become the nucleus of what today would be described as a comprehensive school. Mr. Manley attacked the restrictive effect of the School Certificate, and Mr. W. Lunn M.P. attacked school fees. School fees were abolished at R.G.S. at the end of the war. G.C.E. proved less restrictive than school certificate; comprehensive reorganisation came in 1974.

For the second year, R.G.S. was about twice the size in staff and pupils. With the appointment of Mr. Waumsley, M.I. and music were set on a sound rooting, the two being combined in the making of pipes for a pipe band. A scout troop was formed, a land utilisation survey of the Lofthouse district was begun, the library stock reached a thousand volumes and in 1936 the Regional Survey Club came into being, organizing visits to places of interest in the surrounding area.

The most outstanding events of 1937 were the success of twelve candidates in the school certificate and the first R.G.S. visit abroad, a party being taken to Germany by Mr. Goudie and Miss Crawshaw. Another "first" in 1937 was a Y.H.A. cycling party which spent a few days in the Yorkshire Dales. Camping holidays, now a regular feature, were held at Edale and many visits to French plays and films were arranged by Miss Hartley. Finally, from the point of view of scholars' activities, 1937-38 was the most successful rugby season since the opening of the school, the first team winning ten out of twelve matches.

1938-45

The outbreak of the war in 1939 was inevitably a set-back to the school's progress. Eight masters, Messrs. Booth, Brown, Chapman, Harrison, Hendry, Kaye and Vaughan joined the forces, together with Mr. Horsfall, the groundsman. Nevertheless the effects of this set-back were minimised by the untiring efforts of the remaining staff and temporry staff. In most activities the normal pattern still continued; Mr. Manley, in addition to teaching full time during the early years of the war, produced his plays without a break. "Hobson's Choice", "Murder on the Second Floor", "Arms and the Man", "The Rivals" and "Quality Street" were all performed during the war years. Perhaps the most interesting production of this time was "Mr. Lear" a transposition to modern times by Mr. Manley of Shakespeare's greatest tragedy.

Under Mr. Holmes, rugby continued to flourish and 1943-44 was one of the most successful seasons for several years. Holiday camps, which had been held regularly up to 1939, were replaced by agricultural camps. Each summer throughout the war, large parties of scholars were taken to a farm at Tardebigge, Worcestershire, to pick fruit. Similar camps were held for potato picking near Fountains Abbey, Snaith and Doncaster. In addition to helping the war effort it seems that those who stayed on these farms enjoyed far better and more plentiful food than those who stayed at home.

Throughout the war, close contact was maintained with old scholars serving in the forces, largely through the efforts of Miss Hartley (who wrote hundreds of letters keeping them in touch) and the P.T.A., which, despite the restrictions on its activities, was constantly raising money for its Old Scholars Christmas Gift Fund.

But the war inevitably took its toll of old scholars, and by the end of the war in Europe in 1945, nine had lost their lives. One other was killed in an accident in Australia. A plaque in their honour was placed in the school hall and later a more outstanding memorial was erected to them when the cricket pavilion was built.

However, the school itself came through the war remarkably well, and on the first speech-day after the war, Mr. Manley, speaking of the academic success of the school, announced that during the previous school year 75% passes had been obtained in the School Certificate, and 100% passes had been obtained in the Higher School Certificate.

1945-1964

With the return of the masters who had been serving in the forces the school was able to return to normal. The P.T.A. resumed its programme of "At Homes", dances and whist drives, in aid of the scholarship funds, school prizes and the war memorial fund. The memorial fund was later helped by the sale of Mr. Manley's widely acclaimed study of the Yorkshire collier, "Meet the Miner', the money from which he gave to speed the building of the memorial pavilion.

A further activity which had a loose connection with the school and the P.T.A. was the Lofthouse Musical Society. Following the success of two public concerts the society, under the secretaryship of Mr. Booth, was organised to arrange further concerts, which it did until interest eventually waned. The music of the school after the war moved from the orchestral to the choral field. The orchestra, owing to a lack of trained instrumentalists, unfortunately went out of existence at the end of the war. However, under Miss Blakey and Mr. Vaughan the choral society was formed and had many successes.

At this time school camps underwent an important change of character. The last holiday camp for the whole school was held at Kettleness in 1948. From then on the only "Holiday camps" were the walking camps held solely for boys in the Lake District. The first of these was at Stonethwaite in Borrowdale but all subsequent ones were at Stool End Farm and they were held during Whitsun holidays. With the camp at Malham in 1948 began an unbroken series of "field studies" camps. These have made possible practical work in geography, geology, biology, botany, art, meteorology and economic and social history.

Mr. Manley's plays, of course, continued; as before he always tried to include the greatest possible number of pupils in his cast, giving a chance to act, and deliberately avoiding making "stars" of anyone, least of all those whose natural talents and confidence were greatest.

Returning to school activities, swimming was revived after the war. Inter-house galas were held for several years, but more importantly, many scholars were taught life-saving, and countless awards, up to the highest, the Instructor's Certificate, were gained. During 1947-48 four bronze crosses and six bronze medallions were attained, and the number of lifesaving awards has continued and increased ever since.

Foreign visits had taken place before the war, but after the war they developed on a much larger scale. Two or three times parties visited the College Jehan Ango in Dieppe. The relationship between the two schools became most cordial, and helped towards a better understanding between the two areas of war-ravaged and humiliated France and post-war England. When the West Riding Education Officer expressed anxiety at the state of the Anglo-German relationship in 1950, it was Mr. Manley who suggested that each school should extend an invitation to a German boy to spend a term in England. His idea was accepted and Rothwell Grammar School entertained Hans Gunther Wagemann. Soon afterwards ten R.G.S. boys spent a cycling holiday in Germany with five boys from Bonn.

1950 was outstanding in two other respects. Firstly, it was the first cricket eleven's most outstanding season for several years, winning two matches, drawing two and losing only one. But more importantly in the history of the school, 1950 saw the retirement of Miss Hartley, and also of Mr. Waumsley. Miss Hartley had been senior mistress ever since the opening of the school, and given herself entirely in the service of the school. Like Mr. Manley she had a personal interest in all her pupils which become most apparent in the hundreds of letters which she wrote to old scholars serving in the forces during the war. Her presence was greatly

missed, but she had been at R.G.S. long enough for her personality to have played a major role in the laying of the school's foundations and in the forming of its traditions. Mr. Waumsley had similarly played a very active part in the life of the school. Outside his own subject, Manual Instructions, he made a very important contribution to the music of the school.

In 1952 Mr. Vaughan introduced an activity which was to become, like field study camp, an extremely important event in the school calendar. This was the inter-house festival, which revived interest in the house system, and led to great increase in creative activity. A series of competitions in music, art, poetry and many other fields was arranged. Public speaking, on which Mr. Manley placed the greatest emphasis and in which he spent many hours training pupils, held a special place in the competition, and on leaving Rothwell for a headship at Pocklington, Mr. Vaughan presented a cup to the school, to be awarded each year to the house whose speaking teams had gained the greatest number of points. When Mr. Vaughan's impetus was removed, the size of the competition fluctuated considerably.

The more exra-curricular activities might be mentioned here. Firstly, the film society was introduced by Mr. Leach. Its intention was not to compete with local cinemas but to put on films of artistic merit or those which had established themselves as classics. In 1948 several films were shown including some foreign films. The sixth form discussion group, after a few successful seasons with an annual dinner, came to an end. The only really flourishing society was the geographical society, which had a membership for several years, of well over fifty. It arranged films, lectures and field-trips for its members and held an annual dinner.

For the first time since 1940, Rothwell Grammar School underwent inspection by an H.M.I. Mr. Earl, after seeing the school, was asked to visit the field study camp at Conwy before making his report. He and his family spent a few days there and this finally confirmed and raised even higher, his already high opinion of the school's work.

Mr. Manley's dramatic productions again come to the fore, and are described in a separate article. But special mention must be made of a little trilogy by Mr. Manley, based on local history, "Mediaeval Medley", for this gained for him national recognition in the Times Educational Supplement in an article which summed up the principles which had guided him in writing and producing.

Another member of staff, Mr. Porter, was also to gain national acclaim for his two books on French and German essay writing. But Mr. Porter's greatest contribution to the school has been in his organizing of the school's participation in the Yorkshire/Lille exchange scheme. In the early 'fifties, two R.G.S. pupils exchanged with French partners. The figures by 1963 had risen to fifty a year. It is this kind of activity which, in addition to work in the classroom, has made possible the many first prizes which Rothwell pupils have won in the competitions organised by the Yorkshire branch of the Modern Language Association.

1960 saw the retirement of Mr. E. Kirkby, caretaker since the opening of the school, and indeed the only remaining member of the original staff apart from Mr. Manley himself. Mr. Kirkby was much more than a caretaker; he will be remembered above all for his humour and for his help in stagemanaging of school plays.

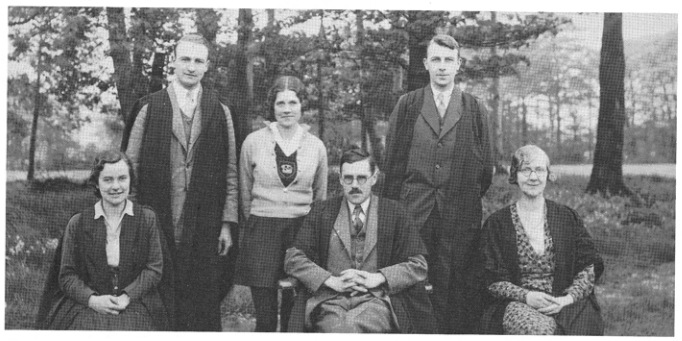
By the same year, 1960, the school was well into participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award pilot scheme for which R.G.S. had been selected by the county. Some gold and many silver and bronze awards were gained, and much valuable experience was gained in lightweight camping, map work, fire-fighting, first aid, and in the pursuit of diverse hobbies. But the two most outstanding events associated with the scheme have been the visit of Sir John Hunt, and the 1963 Iceland expedition in which five scholars and old scholars took part.

or other boisterous games.

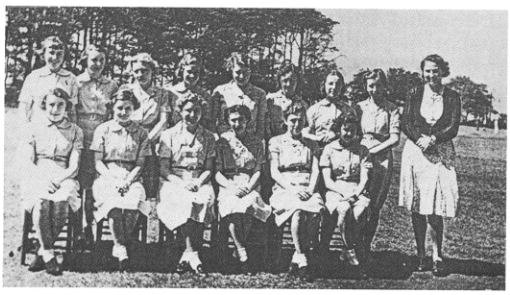
It was fortunate that reorganisation was to take place gradually so that there would be manageable growth and change year by year as new pupils came each September and the earlier selected intakes left at 16 or 18. It was evolution rather than revolution.

Changes came; indeed they had been coming before 1974. When courses and methods of examining seemed more appropriate, C.S.E. had already been introduced in some subjects alongside the usual G.C.E. In the IV and V year options, an extra group of subjects had been introduced to enable each pupil to take a subject as a recreational rather than academic course, although some still chose to be examined in a "recreational" subject; boys had taken Home Ecomonics and girls Wood and Metal Work; a modern General Science course for the juniors was introduced by an Old Scholar back on the staff; Russian was taught but only for three years or so. After 1974 new Art and Craft rooms, Music rooms, a Sports Hall and additional Gymnasium and Junior Laboratories enabled the School to provide a still wider range of courses and experiences for all its pupils. Careers Conventions and the work of Careers Officers and teachers linked pupils, staff and parents to the world outside school as Mr. Manley had tried to do in his pioneering way back in the 'thirties. Staff numbers had been growing before 1974 and grew even more afterwards - more teachers, secretaries, laboratory and workshop technicians, a librarian and matron, caretaker, cleaners and catering staff; altogether they would be more than the entire school of 1933.

Extra-curricular activities, old and new, still flourished - VI Form Discussion Group Dinners were followed by the Geographical Society's Evenings and Staff/VI Leavers Dinners; sponsored walks and galas raised money for minibuses and other valuable resources and Lyke Wake walks, outdoor pursuits at Bewerly Park and Humphrey Head, geographical field trips, Yorks. School Exploration visits to places such as Norway and continuation of camps, cycling tours, plays, concerts and foreign exchanges, all contributed to the enrichment of the lives of all members of the school.

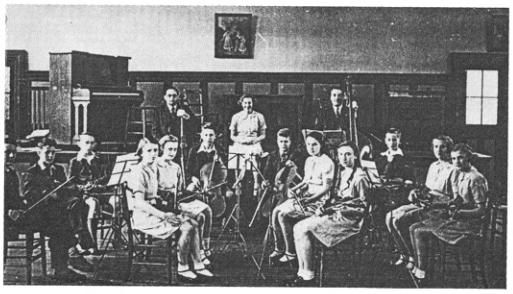


Staff of School In 1933/34



Tennis Team - possibly 1939/40

Rounders Team 1939/40



School Orchestra

REMINISCENCES OF ROTHWELL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Until 1932, children from the areas covered by the Rothwell and Stanley Urban Councils attended Q.E.G.S. or Wakefield Girls' High School if they required secondary education.

Possibly because of the number of children requiring secondary education, West Riding County Council decided to build a secondary school on land at Lofthouse, to be known as Rothwell Grammar School and to open in September 1933. I have never known why a school built in Lofthouse should be known as Rothwell Grammar. Mr. Jeffrey, one of the first members of staff, went to Rothwell for his interview and only just made it to Lofthouse in time! Pupils also came from East Ardsley to the school.

In those days, there were two methods of entry to Grammar School, either by gaining a County Minor Scholarship or by fee paying.

A child had two chances of gaining a County Minor Scholarship - one was known as the Junior Exam and was for those aged ten, the other, the Senior Exam for those aged eleven. It was not uncommon for someone to fail the Junior Exam and subsequntly pass the Senior Exam Depending on the time of the year when one's bithday fell, quite a lot of children started their secondary education at the age of 10.

The fees were three guineas per term payable in advance. They were paid to the clerk of the Governors, who attended School one morning shortly before the start of term. To be admitted as a fee paying pupil, a child had to pass a test set by the Headmaster.

In comparison, the fees at Wakefield Schools were seven guineas per term. As there was no inflation, fees remained constant.

Succesful scholarship candidates were notified by the Head of their elementary school in assembly. At my school, three girls and one boy were successful.

In the early part of the year, the "Wakefield Express" announced the name of the Headmaster of the school. It gave a brief history of his career and like all British newspapers, also gave his age, which I think was thirty five. It also published a photograph.

In later years, Mr. Manley told me of his early trials and tribulations. He came up from London on most weekends. He took the applications for teaching posts back to London in a suitcase as there were so many. Applications for each post ran into the hundreds.

In early August, all our parents received a letter informing them of the date of commencement of the Christmas term, together with a list of clothing which would be required. Rawcliffes of Leeds were awarded the clothing contract. The school colours were black and silver grey and the badge bore an oak tree. The school motto was also included on items of uniform but not the English translation. Strange as it may seem to today's generation, boys wore short trousers until they left school at the age of fourteen.

There was a severe depression in the 'thirties and children of unemployed fathers received a clothing grant to assist in the purchase of all this additional clothing.

Having got our uniforms, the only thing to do was wait! At the end of August, the elementary school re-commenced and we potential secondary school pupils were left with time on our hands.

However, the great day finally arrived in early September!

We were all togged up in our brand-new outfits and set out for school. As I lived only a short distance from school, I walked. Unfortunately, I had to walk past my old elementary school and all the kids with whom I'd been friendly seemed to turn out in force. As I walked past on the first day, to say I felt like a pariah is an understatement. All the boys started jeering and shouting and calling names, the commonest of which was "High School Gorby". This only induced me to walk faster!

Some eighty to ninety of us arrived at school and we were directed into the Hall.

As most of us were strangers to each other, we gazed sheepishly around and there saw the staff for the first time. They were all on the platform and what seemed strange to us was that they all wore gowns! We were told that the other three members of staff with the head were Mr. Jeffrey, Miss Hartley and Miss Clegg.

We were given an introduction to the school motto and its meaning and then assigned to a class. The older pupils were put into Form II and the rest of us were put into two first forms.

In the first year, four boys were called Fish, Fox, Lyon and Orange, so we were a mixed bunch from the start. We were all given a timetable, which we pasted to the underside of our desk lids. We were arranged alphabetically in class with the A's starting on the back row and the T's and W's etc, being on the front.

There were four lessons during the morning, from 9.00 to 12.30 with a break after the second lesson and three lessons in the afternoon from 1.45 to 3.45 p.m. All four members of staff taught us all our subjects!

Homework consisted of three subjects per day and this started during the first week of school.

An extra member of staff that first year was Miss Robinson, who came to us two mornings per week from Morley Grammar School to take us for gym (P.E.). It was a rule that everyone had to have a shower after gym and Miss Robinson wasn't a bit abashed. She'd march into the changing room to make sure that no boy shirked his duty. The lads were certainly embarrassed as, at that age, they didn't fancy a strange woman looking at them in their birthday suits but there was nothing they could do to avoid it. I've never seen people wrap towels around themselves as quickly as those lads did.

School dinners were soon started as it was impossible for most pupils to go home and get back in time for the afternoon classes. At first, there were a few tables in room 1. We must remember that during the 'thirties, there was a severe economic depression. Mr. Manley was very good to local traders such as butchers and greengrocers. He would award one of them a contract for a year to supply their produce and the following year, he gave the contract to another trader so that things were shared around. The cost of a dinner was sixpence and good value they were too. At some time, tickets were introduced and they were of two colours, red for payers and green for free dinners. When Miss Crawshaw arrived a year of so later, she was given the responsibility for issuing the tickets.

Mrs. Kirby, the wife of the Caretaker, did the cooking in the well appointed kitchens and as the numbers of pupils taking dinners increased, more ladies were employed.

Grace was always said before meals. I found myself allotted to Miss Hartley's table and she used to serve all on her table. Now, with Miss Hartley, there was no such thing as 'I don't like it' (in my case, apricots and prunes); you meekly asked for a small helping!

When there were eventually more diners than the two rooms could hold, dinners were taken in the Hall. Boys queued at one end and girls at another until we were told to enter. Older pupils were given the responsibility of being Heads of Tables. It was common practice for the boys (foragers) to go along to the girl's tables to see if there was any sweet left, which would be swiftly dispatched. Chocolate pudding was a particular favourite and lots of boys used

to put a piece in their blazer pockets for consumption during the afternoon.

The prices of dinners remained constant during the 'thirties. At the end of the first term, we received our first school report, which was in book form and contained lots of sheets which were diligently filled in at the end of each term. The system had the advantage that members of staff could turn back the pages and see what had gone on before, but to us, it had one great disadvantage, in that a bad report forever remained in the book. I still have mine somewhere and cannot believe some of the comments made at the time.

Every morning at school, there was an assembly, mostly conducted by Mr. Manley. There was a school hymn book containing some thirty to forty hymns and the hymn number was announced and accompanied on the piano by Miss Hartley, whilst we did our best to keep in tune. One hymn beginning with the words 'Holy, Holy, Holy' ended with 'Blessed Trinity' and the boys at the back always sang 'Wakefield Trinity'.

Milk was obtained during the morning break. It came in bottles containing one third of a pint. Those on free dinners got it free of charge, whilst others could have it for one penny per bottle.

As we had no sportsman on the staff, the job of taking the boys for rugby was given to Mr. Merry the groundsman. He played rugby for some club in Leeds and one September evening, he arranged a game between two clubs to be played on the school pitch. A large crowd, including parents and pupils, watched this game. For most of us, it was the first occasion on which we'd seen the game played. We soon got to grips with it and towards the end of September, a match was played between the school and a team from Q.E.G.S. It ended in a draw. It wasn't too difficult to get into the team as you had a one in three chance of making it. The first rugby Captain was Don Worth.

Unfortunately, rivalries intensified as the years passed and in time, we knew that matches against Morley were going to be rough. I'm sorry to say that a number of unseemly incidents, unseen by the referee, occurred in these games. Some of our team were no saints and individuals picked each other out. The climax occurred during a game at home. The referee on that occasion was the language master, a dour Scotsman, Mr. Faulk. Although he wore spectacles, he spotted one of the Morley team testing his fist against one of our lad's heads. I've never heard a shriller blast on a whistle, the offender was called out and sent off, after this things calmed down.

I was talking to Hugh Fish and he asked me if I could recall the games against Castleford. They were a tough lot but played the game fairly. We never relished a visit there because firstly, we always got hammered and secondly, we hated the sight of the field. It was a quarter to half a mile away from the school, it sloped from end to end and side to side. There was a footpath running across it and it adjoined a railway line and Wheldale Colliery. The referee was an Irishman, Mr. Delaney, and on one occasion, some of our younger members were going through a nightmare. He stopped the game and told them that they weren't trying and to snap to it.

In early December, 1933, the school was officially opened by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, M.P. for Wakefield. I have a vague recollection of this and I think one parent received an invitation. On the stage were local dignitaries and officials from the West Riding County Council. It was there that we first saw the Chairman of the Governors, one Alderman Turner, who opened his speech then and at every subsequent Speech Day with the words 'Ladies and Gentlemen and my young friends'.

When we returned to the school in 1934 after the Christmas break, Mr. Manley informed

us that one of our classmates, Phillip Law, had died of diphtheria. There was no immunisation of infants then and one thinks of all the illnesses incurred then which are practically unknown at the present time. On one school camp, one of the boys in our tent contracted Scarlet Fever. As we'd been in contact with him, all in the tent had to take a week off school on our return. We didn't mind at all.

Mr. Brown, a history teacher, developed pneumonia and was in Leeds Infirmary for a time. He was treated with a new drug and returned to school as fit as ever.

During the first year, Mr. Manley started the Parent Teacher Association, a thing which was quite unheard of in the area. It got off to a good start. A committee of parents and teachers was formed. Miss Hartley was the first secretary and the Association was well supported. They had a dance in the school hall and profits were used to buy various things, one item being a tent. The P.T.A. also organised regular garden parties which were big events supported by many members of the community.

In January 1934, we got a new member of staff, Mr. Ramsey, and his subject was biology. He was a young man and played rugby and so was press-ganged into helping with the rugby along with Mr. Merry. He very soon acquired the nickname "Piper Beadle" but was always referred to as "Piper".

Whilst on the subject of nicknames, Mr. Manley became "Gaff". Many of the later scholars thought that he was given this name because he was the boss but this is totally untrue. He started coming to school in a brownish coloured tweed suit. Shortly after this, there was a story in a boys' comic (Wizard, Hotspur or something like that) about a country squire type who was called "Gaffer" by all and sundry. He was featured on the front page wearing an identical suit to that of Mr. Manley.

Some boys were larking about in the cloakroom after school one day and were caught by Mr. Kirby who said "It's a fair cop". From then on, he was always known as "Fair Cop".

I can't remember exactly when the tuck shop opened, probably during the first year. Mr Jeffrey ran it and it went from strength to strength. At first, it was met with opposition from the local traders, who objected as they thought they would lose trade but this was soon overcome. In those days, a small bar of chocolate could be purchased for the princely sum of half a penny.

During the first year, two square bell tents were purchased. The first camp was held at Barwick-in-Elmet. It was only a few days' camp and Mr. and Mrs. Manley did all the cooking. We also had a few days at Malham. On these early camps, Mr. Manley organised long walks and we always returned to camp well and truly worn out.

As more pupils enterd the school, more and more tents were purchased and camps were held at Sandsend near Whitby, Edale in Derbyshire, Conway, Little Stretton in Shropshire and Beckhole, a small village near Goathland. The inclusive cost of these camps was one pound!

In the first term, we were allocated to a house. There were four houses, Faraday, Grenfell, Livingstone and Nightingale. We were told whom these houses were named after and whilst I was at school, we were certainly proud of our house.

Each year, new members of staff arrived. I'm not sure of the exact years that they arrived but I can recall Messrs. Brown, Harrison, Goudre, Hendry, Beardwood, Vaughan, Kaye, Faulk and Warmsley.

The ladies were Miss Crawshaw, Miss Parkin, Miss Barnet and Miss Dean. When Miss Dean arrived she was selected from more than six hundred applicants.

Whilst at school, we never realised just what a good education we were receiving. The staff were good and what they taught us seemed to stick.

I think everyone will remember Charles Harrison. He joined the school staff to teach English. He was quite a small man and his discipline was first class. When he was seen approaching the classroom, you could hear a pin drop. He would enter the classroom, close the door with his foot and stand in front of the class staring at us and then the lesson would commence. His methods must have paid off because exams in English were found to be much easier than all the homework he'd given us. Friday's homework always consisted of an essay which had to be handed in on Monday. There were few who didn't perform this task as he knew all the excuses!

At some stage in our school life, we were taken to Joseph Street baths in Hunslet for swimming. It was ridiculous, really, because we'd no sooner get into the baths before it was time to come out. One or two swimming galas were held there.

We were able to hold our own against most schools at cricket. We played most of the neighbouring Grammar Schools and once again, Silcoates provided the most popular opposition. Besides having a good tea, we managed to have a swim in their pool.

"Gaff" started a Scout troop at school. We met there on Friday evenings. There were two patrols, Eagle and Stork, patrol leaders were Ronnie (Jockey) Easom, unfortunately killed in the R.A.F. during World War II, and Geoff Ingham. A weekend camp was held at Walton. We left school on Friday evening and it was really hot. I distinctly remember pulling the cart through Outwood and running down the hill from Outwood church. The people on the pavement looked on in amazement as we passed and one lady told my parents that she'd never seen anything like it in her life. Crafty members of the troop pretended that they were tired (and I can still name them!) and were picked up by Mrs. Manley in the car and so arrived in a much fresher condition than the rest of us.

In the early days, "Gaff" decided that pupils would read a passage from the bible during assembly. I think this caused more sleepless nights than anything else as most of us suffered from stage-fright, particularly the girls. "Gaff" went over the passage with the poor unfortunate wretch who had drawn the short straw. A box was placed by the lectern for the smaller pupils. One poor girl had the misfortune to read an excerpt which had a rather rude ending. She omitted this but to her horror, was made to read the passage in its entirety the following day. Her face became redder and redder and the other pupils never let her forget it. I've always said that children can be cruel.

As if this wasn't bad enough, "Gaff" then decided that to improve speech and self-confidence, pupils should learn a lengthy passage from a book and deliver it in assembly. Why, I don't know, but I was the first guinea pig selected for this torture. I had to take the book home and learn the hated passage, see "Gaff" every morning before assembly and then finally had to stand in front of the whole school and recite it. To my astonishment, they all applauded, probably as a way of expressing their sympathy. Other boys and girls had to go through the same ritual and I really knew how they were suffering.

During our year in the fourth form the headteacher tried an experiment. He thought it would be good for us all to learn shorthand. For this task a gentleman from Leeds was engaged. He was nicknamed "Nunky". We all thought he was a kind and gentle man but oh, my word! he was a wolf in sheeps' clothing. With new teachers, schoolchildren see how far they can go. Thursday was the chosen day. A boy sitting in front of me whistled and made squeaky noises. No one would own up so, starting at the front, he clouted the boys in turn. One lad, Jack B., put his fists up to defend himself and was sent sprawling across the room. "Nunky" was finally dismissed when a child's head was trapped between chair and desk resulting in a copiously

bleeding nose.

Our first term in the laboratories consisted of being given a rag, a duster and a tin of beeswax polish. We had to polish the benches and really make them shine.

Anyone who contacted scarlet fever had his or her books taken to the Chemistry lab., dumped in the fume cupboard and fumigated.

One lunchtime, the ill-fated German airship "The Hindenburg" passed over the school.

When war appeared imminent in 1938, the older boys were given spades and dug a trench around the playing fields. We also dug the foundations for the running track. I always thought that it was a pity that it couldn't have been one quarter of a mile round!

In conclusion I'll give what I thought were amusing incidents which occured during my time at school.

Mr. Jeffrey (nicknamed Ebenezer Scrooge but shortened to Eb) was not renowned for his sense of humour. He asked for the homework one day and one boy, renowned for his laziness said "Please, Sir, I've left it at home". The said Eb, stepped back two or three paces and sang "Tell me the old, old story", much to our amazement. I think it was the first time he'd ever made us laugh.

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A favourite trick used to be to place the waste paper basket over the door which was slightly ajar. George G. did this one day and Eb, who happened to be passing unexpectedly stepped into the classroom, where he received a resounding crack on the head with said basket - I can assure you that nobody laughed!

During one biology lesson "Piper" asked for our homework. He started on the side bench. No-one had done it, so each received a hefty clout. The boy next to me was a studious type and handed over his book. "Good God" said 'Piper' - "A miracle - someone has actually done something". Then he turned to me . "I don't suppose you've done yours?". "No Sir" was the reply, at the same time preparing to dodge the blow. Instead, he seized my lab. book - and they were quite thick - and ripped it in two in a flash. To me, it was better than a thick ear, which is what the others got.

In School Certificate exams, you had to write a short story in French or German. We got lots of these in class to prepare us for the exams. On many occasions, 'Stumpy' Faulk would look at our effort and say to certain people, 'You've as much chance of getting your School Certificate as a snowball in Hades".

In our time, there was a mounted stag's head on the stairway. For some reason, it was christened Algy and was always festooned with streamers at Christmas time.

Looking back now, I think I can say in all honesty that we did enjoy our time at R.G.S. and put our education to good use.

THE FIRST ENTRY

On the morning of September 12th, 1933 some eighty boys and girls walked up Longthorpe Lane. All were thinking of just what awaited them once they'd walked through the doors of the new Grammar School.

The Senior Master, Mr. R. Jeffrey, directed us to the hall, where we met the staff of the school, which comprised Mr. E.R. Manley, the Headmaster, Miss Hartley, Senior Mistress and Miss Clegg. After the usual pre-term talk we wre told to which forms we had been assigned, and wended our way to the Form rooms - Rooms 4, 7 and 8.

At that time the methods of entry to the school were either by gaining a County Minor Scholarship or by fee paying. Provided one passed the Entrance Examination, the fees were three guineas per term, payable in advance.

The science Laboratories were not completed at that time, so all lessons were held in the form rooms. The staff taught subjects that were probably as alien to them as us pupils. Mr. Manley, a historian, taught English, Miss Clegg, a language teacher, took History. Mr. Jeffrey, a science man, took Maths and Miss Hartley took French and Music.

Mr. Kirby was the first caretaker and he became well known to all those who went to the School.

Several Rugby matches were played against other Schools during the first term. The first match played was at home against a team from Q.E.G.S., and I think it ended in a draw at 6 points all. There was quite a big crowd for this and the other home games.

Miss Clegg took on the role as Sports Mistress and she soon had the girls playing Hockey.

The School was officially opened one Friday in December by Mr. Arthur Greenwood, the M.P. for Wakefield.

During the first year, Mr. Manley formed a P.T.A. This was an entirely new and unheard-of venture in Rothwell, but the idea spread to other Schools. The Head and his Staff organised fund-raising efforts, the most popular one being the introduction of a Tuck Shop. They made enough to buy two square bell tents, and two weekend camps were held during the first year at Barwick-in-Elmet and Malham.

In later years camps were held at Sandsend, Ludlow, Conwy, Goathland and other places. Each year the numbers increased and more tents were purchased. The cooking was done by the Staff, and we Scholars just did not appreciate what time and effort the Staff put into those camps.

At the end of the second year a week's trip to London was arranged, and a school in Willesden became the camp headquarters. I think the cost, which included return fare, food and excursions, was £2.00 per head.

By this time the school was growing, and each year another eighty or ninety pupils swelled the roll, and we (1933 intake) used to look on the platform in the hall to see who were the new members of Staff.

During the pre-war years a Garden Party arranged by the P.T.A. was held one Saturday in June. Miss Hartley was in charge on the arrangements, and I think we only had one rainy day. The older pupils were roped in to help doing jobs such as looking after and recording the scores of clock golf, helping on stalls, taking admission tickets and acting as guides. These events are very enjoyable and will always be remembered by the pre-war intake.

During the fourth year Mr. Manley introduced the Prefect System, and I think L.C. Allen was the first Head Boy. Other head boys I remember were Jim Fox and Alan Dobson. I think the first Head Girl was Joan Tate from Stourton, and another I remember was Edna Jones.

Mr. Manley decided that some of the pupils should speak in Assembly. This was a very arduous task and unfortunately I was the first to undergo this experience. I was given a book and told to memorise some two or three pages. After this I had numerous sessions with the head, who instructed me how to recite this piece of prose, and I spent the few remaining days before this ordeal in absolute torment. However, all went well and I can honestly say that I can remember that occasion as if it were yesterday.

We little realised at the time just how much good this type of training would be to us in our adult years.

'LOOKING BACK'

It was with mixed feelings of pride and apprehension that I walked up the School drive for the first day at my newly opened School on 12th September 1933. To be part of that very first intake of pupils was a bit overwhelming and I am sure most of us lucky enough to be there were fully aware of the importance of the occasion.

Along with many, I had previosly attended an old village School. The buildings were Victorian, along with the facilities, and both sexes were segregated. Now, here we were, faced with this modern, clean, fresh School with its light form rooms, gymnasium and showers, laboratories, lecture room and beautiful assembly hall. So much to take in. The grounds and sports fields were so different to those we had left. There was certainly an air of excitement; so much seemed to be happening.

After disposing of outdoor clothes, we made our way to the assembly hall, to be addressed and welcomed by the Headmaster. We then made our way to the forms in which we had been placed (3 in all) under the supervision of Miss Hartley, Mr. Jeffery and Miss Clegg. The next days were spent surrounded by large sheets of brown paper with which we had to back text books and exercise books issued to us, and generally getting to know our colleagues and our whereabouts. Subject timetables were then handed out and we knew where we had to be and when.

The School had been divided into four houses and names given to them were Livingstone, Faraday, Nightingale and Grenfell. I was in Livingstone and our House Tutor was Miss Hartley. Each House was alloted a plot of land in the School grounds. Livingstone's was the Tennis Clump and we planted bulbs and generally kept it looking neat and attractive. There were, of course, many familiar faces amongst the pupils but one soon made new friends - it was that kind of School.

As work and School activities proceeded, we became a very close community; everyone came to know everyone in the school. Naturally, some were more inquisitive than others and I well remember one girl being very curious about the workings of the fire extinguisher in the girls' cloakroom, so she promptly pressed the plunger and found out. There was foam everywhere - including all over her hair. Miss Hartley was not amused!

A School choir was one of Miss Hartley's projects and we were summoned into the Hall separately to stand beside the piano whilst she accompanied each one of us singing scales. A pipe band was also formed. We made our own bamboo pipes but about the only tune I mastered, if that is the right word, was 'Robin Adair', possibly the simplest tune that could be found.

Mr. Manley had a very keen interest in dramatics and during my School life, I took part in many of the plays. I remember Mr. Manley shaving off his moustache to play a part when the boy scheduled for it failed to arrive. Of course, Mr. Manley knew the gist of the play very well but, not being exactly word perfect, we were all somewhat 'thrown' by the lack of cue lines. However, we managed and certainly, the play could not have gone on without his contribution. It seemed strange, however, to see our Headmaster minus moustache for a while.

Another of Mr. Manley's interests was Spoken English and it was with some trepidation that I knocked on the door of his office, having been summoned there. He asked if I had seen any interesting films and I replied that I had, in fact, seen the film about the San Francisco earthquake. He asked me to tell him the story of the film. I can still remember feeling so small in what seemed an enormous chair as I related the story to him. I was delighted, however, when told I had been awarded a prize. It was particularly pleasing to me that my prize had been donated by Mr. Manley's Mother and was inscribed with a short poem.

The outdoor activities were also enjoyable and first School camp was at Potterton, near Barwick-in-Elmet. We were there for the May Day celebrations. Barwick had a maypole. On the Sunday, parents were invited to visit and a cricket match was organised which had rather a sad result for me in that my Father was knocked out by a somewhat wildly thrown cricket ball. His head was cut but, fortunately, Mrs. Jeffrey was on hand to render first aid and, after resting a while, he was considered fit to drive home.

Apart from that, it was a very enjoyable camp as were others to follow, particularly at Sandsend near Whitby, and Conway. The Sandsend camp took us in search of fossils at nearby Kettleness Point. Everyone was keen to get 'The best' and, in fact, some found their way to the School museum - which at that time consisted of a large glass-fronted cabinet in the library! A

distinct memory of the School camps was the strong smell of Lifebuoy toilet soap - I guess everyone thought it would keep the germs at bay!

More pupils and extra staff became part of the School and we were no longer that small, intimate group of people who first entered the doors that September morning in 1933 but the happy atmosphere still seemed to prevail. Some pupils left for various reasons and one teacher, Mr. Nunn, who took Commercial subjects, had but a brief reign, due to the fact that he seemed to go quite berserk from time to time and woe betide any boy in his way. However, as I say, his reign was brief - perhaps a good thing.

School reports at that time recorded 'height, weight and chest measurement'. According to my report, I rose from 4' 8" to 5' 6" in one term which is extraordinary as I am still only 4' 11". I wonder where all those inches went.

I remember having a little chat with Miss Hartley before leaving School and I often wondered why she thought of me as being 'ideally suited to be a personal Secretary to an author or a Bishop'!!! The latter especially intrigued me.

My husband was also a member of that first intake of pupils and we both served in the R.A.F. We both had a keen interest in everything associated with the School but, sadly, he died in 1985. Rothwell Grammar School was always very special to me and it was pleasing to me that I had been part of its beginnings. Everyone will have their own personal memories and feelings, perhaps some sad as well as happy but all part of what made up our School life. Good friendships were formed and, even now, when one meets these friends, the years seem to disappear and that age-old question seems to come to everyone's mind - 'DO YOU REMEMBER.....'

I do remember so very well the sadness I felt when I joined in the singing of 'Lord dismiss us with thy blessing' for the last time in the School hall. The School may have grown and changed over the years but when I go back, I can still remember the excitement of a 12 years old girl walking up the drive to enter her brand-new School for the very first time.

It more than lived up to her hopes and expectations.

FROM PEACE TO WAR

As I lived in the village of East Ardsey I had two choices after gaining my County Minor Scholarship, I could attend Morley Grammar School or Rothwell Grammar School. I opted for the latter and started there in September, 1935. My new school uniform comprised a navy blue gym slip (which had to be the regulation four inches above the knee whilst kneeling down), a square necked cream blouse and long black woollen stockings. In winter we were allowed to wear grey jumpers which had grey, black and white striped collars. All of my contempories would agree with me in saying that Miss Hartley had a great influence on our lives. There was no excuse for going to school incorrectly attired and woe betide any girl who did not come up to scratch. Assembly was held each morning in the hall at 8.50. After assembly we girls marched out in single file and were subject to an inspection from Miss Hartley as we walked past her. The main thing she was looking for was to ensure that we had a grip in each side, and given a lecture which was followed by the inevitable lines.

Prefects used to inspect our kit to ensure that every item was correctly marked. If we lost anything it meant a visit to Miss Hartley and the usual punishment of lines - "A place for

everything and everything in its place". As schoolgirls we used to think that she was hard on us but I'm sure that this discipline helped to form our characters in later life.

I had the pleasure of meeting Miss Hartley on many occasions after I left school and found her to be a sweet and charming person. I even had the pleasure of her attendance at my wedding and still have the present that she bought me. My husband and I kept in touch with her until we left the area in the fifties.

It is well known that Mr. Manley organised a camp each year, all of them being in different locations. He also organised foreign trips, the first one being in 1937. We went to the Black Forest accompanied by Mr. Faulk and Miss Cranshaw. The cost was ten pounds and the duration was two weeks. I vaguely remember attending a Hitler Youth meeting, and little did we realise that we would be at war with Germany within two years.

In 1938 Mr. Manley organised and accompanied a party to Le Mans. It turned out to be an extremely arduous venture as we seemed to be up at the crack of dawn and on our way at some unearthly hour to see various chateaux in the Loire Valley and elsewhere. On top of all this we even managed a trip to Paris. Some of the masters had been saying for some time that war was coming, but at the end of the summer term in 1939 we never thought that things would never be the same.

Air raid shelters were built at the top end of the netball courts. Air raid rehearsals were held regularly and it was no joke having to troop out into the shelters at a moment's notice. We had to carry gas masks at all times and if we forgot them we were sent home to fetch them.

The male members of staff disappeared one by one as they enlisted in H.M. Forces and were replaced by female staff.

The other thing the Government decided was that it was safer to have all the children together rather than scattered about for 7 weeks in the Summer, so we had to go to School. However it turned out to be a super idea because instead of getting bored all sorts of trips were arranged, Temple Newsam and so on and when we were in school there was a lot of sport and really way out schemes (for that era) like teaching the girls woodwork, how to put on plugs, fix leaking taps and so on and the boys cookery.

This constant changing of staff did not help us, but we had to grin and bear it as similar things were happening all over the country. It seemed such a shame because the school was just beginning to acquire a good reputation and all the pre-war work seemed to disappear down the drain. For such a young school it seemed strange that some of the pupils whom we'd known in 1939 were now in the forces. Quite a number called at school whilst on leave to see Mr. Manley and Miss Hartley, who wrote to many former pupils whilst they were away.

These times were particularly hard on Mr. Manley as besides administrating he taught history to quite a number of forms.

Naturally it was goodbye to school camps and foreign trips. These were replaced by fruit picking camps during the summer holidays. In some small way I suppose it was our contribution to the war effort. We went to a fruit farm at a place called Tardebigge, near Bromsgrove. We travelled by train and some of us took our bicycles. We slept in a barn on straw palliasses using makeshift sleeping bags which our parents had made from blankets. Being young we took this discomfort in our stride.

The work entailed picking raspberries and blackcurrants. We were paid for our work on a piece work basis. For raspberries the going rate was one penny per pound and as blackberries were very small and harder to pick we received two pence per pound. We were allowed to eat

1215 Squadron Womens Junior Air Corps Affiliated to Boys A.T.C. Rothwell Grammar.

fruit as we picked. This was a good psychological move on the part of the owners because after the first day the subsequent results made us wish never to indulge again. On this subject I well remember the toilet facilities consisting of a long shed known as the throne room where one perched on a log of wood in which five holes had been carved. The end hole was discretely partitioned by a curtain for use of the staff. At the end of the day we took it in turns to check by torchlight that every hole in the floor was covered by a shoe to stop nightly visits by what seemed to be enormous rodents. However it was not all work and we had some wonderful times cycling around the countryside. On one occasion we spent the night on the Malvern Hills so that we could watch the sunrise. (one of Mr. Manley's ideas).

Rothwell Grammar School students off to Shropshire to help with fruit picking and harvesting. The school is maintaining a camp until September, and about 120 will take part, maintaining a strength of 60 "in residence".

Pupils of Rothwell Grammar School awaiting the final results of their respective Houses on their annual Sports Day.

We always came home with our kitbags half full of apples, obtaining these by the ancient art of scrumping. Joe Holmes was married during the war and spent his honeymoon with us on one of the fruit picking camps.

I particularly remember the second year I went, August 1943, as the Higher School Certificate results came whilst we were there and we were taken down to the village to send off telegrams to our parents. I still have that telegram, happily for me it said "Passed".

Games and sport suffered during the war. Equipment was in short supply and owing to transport difficulties we could not travel far. I remember playing hockey matches against teams from Hemsworth, Batley and Morley Grammar Schools. A hockey rally was held at Batley Grammar School and I'm pleased to say that we were the winners.

We played tennis but I can't recall any matches being played against other schools.

I have so many little personal memories which are really not very interesting to other people, but I wonder if my friends in the Sixth Form remember one incident. Normally we really were a most well behaved and mature group, but one day towards the end of our time in school we went haywire. Our form room was the lecture room which was directly over Mr. Manley's study. The blinds were down and various riotous games of Rugby, etc were in progress. Suddenly there was a thunderous banging at the door which we had wedged, I was shrieking. "Give the password" then I raised the blind and to our dismay there was Mr. Manley looking as if he had been in a snow storm, covered in plaster from his ceiling.

On leaving school in 1943 I went to college and whilst there I realised just what a good education I had received at Rothwell Grammar School.

My time at school gave me confidence in myself and certainly helped in my career.

WARTIME MEMORIES

My memories are, no doubt, shared by all who were enjoying the September days of the summer holiday in 1939 when we heard that "This country is now at war with Germany". What was going to happen? We were all to report back to school two days early. Why?

A whole range of rumours circulated, including mass evacuation to America (supported by avid readers of "Picture Goer!") and the ultimate fantasy, that the school was to be taken over by the army and we were to attend only an hour a week to give in homework.

Back to school we went, each of us carrying a gas-mask in its cardboard box. Because of our disarmament policy, Britain was almost defenceless at the beginning of the war. Every city here, like Guernica, was an open city. It was thought that we were to be subjected to an intensive bombing raid campaign. Emergency air raid precautions had to be taken, and it was in order to practise these that we were called back to school early.

Our emergency shelters were to be the spaces, about four feet high, formed by the school's foundations. These were to be known to us all in the future as "the duck runs". "Everyone under cover in three minutes is the aim", the Head told us. Window gratings had been removed for us to crawl in, each opening manned by members of staff to assist entry. I can remember being "posted" swiftly through the slot by the athletic physics master.

At first it was a great joke, but after we'd been asked to consider whether our parents would rather members of the same family be together to comfort each other in the case of being buried in rubble for some days before rescue, or whether we'd rather be apart so that

the chances of one member surviving were increased, it did not seem at all funny.

As the weeks went on the war came close to us in many ways. In a boxed cuff link, - gift wallet packed, farewell ten weeks, six members of staff went into H.M. Forces. A great many boys also went into the forces, and the many stories of their gallantry are told in a worthier document than this.

Visits by "old girls" also in the forces proved that the khaki and airforce blue stockings were no more flattering to the ankle than the tan lisle stockings which were then part of the VI form uniform for the girls. Soon the sacred uniform was to come under attack from wartime shortages, the first casualty being the stitched "tea-cosy" hat which was never to return.

In time, tunnel-type, below-ground, air-raid shelters were built behind the netball pitch on the east side of the school. I advanced up the school hierarchy and became one of a team responsible for inspecting the shelters, replenishing the tins of glucose sweets and refilling the Winchesters with drinking water (plastic containers were not then available).

Air raids took a terrible toll of civilian lives, but those shelters at Rothwell Grammar School, were never needed, except for practice, I am thankful to say.

It was still wartime when I left school. I wonder what finally happened to those Winchesters? I rather like bottle gardens!

A MIXED BUNCH

I entered Rodillian School as one of the dreaded 'Comprehensive lot' when comprehensive ideals were trying to mix with Grammar School traditions.

It was a period of experiment and since my first year many things have changed as a result of experience. For instance, Mrs Coombes found hymn practice with 100 tuneless songsters a little too trying first thing Monday morning. The end results can't have proved worth her tireless efforts, as singing in assemblies is a rare occurrence now. To be entirely fair this must be due to the length of school day which has shortened by half an hour. At least we could get home for the beginning of Play School on the television - surely more educational than an assembly.

In my 2nd year grey pinafore dresses were no longer in vogue so a green skirt had to be purchased, much to the distress of my mother.

Having said this, some things stayed the same regardless. For instance, to Mr. Booth we were just another 'horrible lot' that he had to teach and to Miss Blakey it didn't matter what educational system you were from as long as you banged your 'glock' in the right place. Mr. Shaw continued to tear up vain attempts at art. I can't have been the only one who still drew sky as an inch wide blue strip at the top of the page or thought stick men could be called art.

Still, despite all these setbacks we progressed to the 6th form where we proceeded to run up a large debt due to bad management of the coffee bar despite Mr. Sale's vain threats to deprive us of the much-needed caffeine if things didn't improve. I had noticed a coffee percolator appeared in his office so he was well provided for in case he carried out his threat!

But looking back I'm certain we weren't really all that bad.

E. R. MANLEY

"He was a man, take him for all in all,
I shall not look upon his like again."

Charged in that sinewy frame
Is the man who tells us by his deeds
(His words unlock the door that leads within).
Here is the man you think you do not know.
-Not easy to engage in conversation.
-Nor pious, overflowing, trivial.
The child he takes by the hand
The youth by the unseen heart.
The man by the compelling spirit.
To the child the hand is warm,
To the youth th heart is shared,
To the man the spirit is true.
-It is intricate and bold.
And we who stand back and estimate him
Blush.
Are shy of the nearness granted to us
Withhold.
And then unleash
That contained nature of ourselves.
And say,
"It's because we love you, sir, that
We go through all this with you."

I find that many memories are of Mr. Manley, who moulded the school to his approach from the beginning. For example, shortly before the war, when staff were summoned in August to fortify the entrance, a sturdy member of staff disregarded the instruction to carry up one sandbag at a time by taking two, was eyed by E.R.M. who carried three to effect an immediate return to one at a time.

I remember Mr. Manley being trampled in the annual staff rugby match by forwards he couldn't recognise without his spectacles.

One morning he appeared in khaki shorts and gown to take assembly, ready for a quick getaway to camp. I can also see him seated in the cellar-cum-cycle shed, having his hair "styled" by the prince of caretakers. Mr. Kirby, and, at the Ilkeley Sevens - in one vintage year there, his language at moments of stress was strikingly un-headmasterly.

Mr. Manley entrusted me to go to the butcher's shop to pay for the week's meat at the end of an excursion to London. I took a £5 note, the first I'd ever seen, and brought back change.

During the second or third year the Headmaster formed a Scout Troop. This consisted of two patrols, Eagle (black and green) and Stork (blue and white). In those days the old style hat

was worn. We had a few Scout camps, and I remember well one of the first. Mr. Manley designed and Mr.Waumsley built a trek cart. This consisted of a square piece of timber mounted on one central wheel; the handles were Scout Staffs securely lashed to the cart. Mr. Manley took the shafts and by means of ropes we pulled. I remember running and walking in this manner from R.G.S, to Barwick and Walton.

Mr. Manley got the name of "Gaff". Pupils in later years assumed that because he was the Headmaster he'd received the nickname "The Gaffer". However, at that time a boys' comic was produced each day; on Monday it would be "The Adventure", Tuesday "The Wizard" and so on. We used to swap these comics and on the front page of one was a picture of a man in a brown, tweed suit. At that time our Headmaster wore a suit which bore a remarkable resemblance to the one illustrated in the comic, and some one duly remarked on this. The man in the comic was called the "Gaffer" and so before long all the School began to call the Headmaster, "Gaffer", which very soon became "Gaff".

For me, as Secretary, one of the most memorable times was when Mr. Manley had the first tape recorder delivered to the school. He promptly took me into his office and there we were - like Higgins and Eliza Doolittle - working hard on my raw Yorkshire Accent. I was appalled when I heard my voice for the first time.

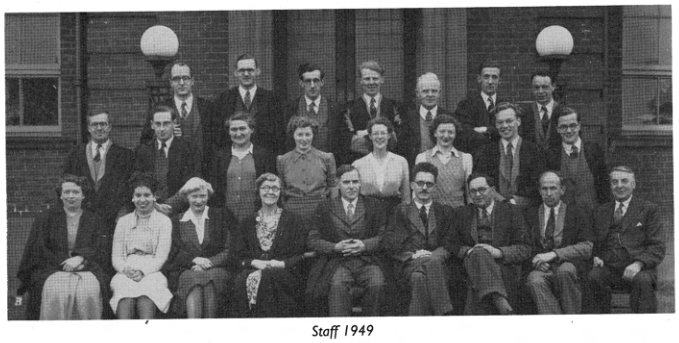
The Gaffer loved drama and we all enjoyed taking part in his plays. I remember a play called "Shoemaker's Holiday". For weeks we had practised a special country dance as part of the play. When the night of the play came, the main actor was taken ill and all seemed lost. We had reckoned without Mr. Manley's determination. He shaved off his moustache and played the leading role. I remember not being pleased when it came to the dancing because the Gaffer didn't know the dance so had to play it for laughs, ruining our carefully rehearsed sequences. We realised afterwards that without the Gaffer there would have been no performance.

It was coming up to Speech Day and as usual we were nattering in the staffroom about what we should sing. I said we ought to have our own song, and a few days later I was digging in the garden at home when Mr. Manley appeared with three songs. He asked me which I liked, and I chose this one:

The School Song

Nec Sperno, nec Timeo
Here in the morning of our days
We stand and sing together;
And as we sing we honour those
who sang before us.
In this our morning we shall sing
A song of gallant purpose,
That with strong hope shall fill the hearts
Of those that follow.
No man can live by self alone,
He lives by what those others
Who went before have built for him,
And made him heir to,
He does not spurn his heritage,
Nor is he fettered by it.
But gives the best of what he is
To shape his future.

So let us sing that down the years
Our song shall gaily echo,
And make for us and for our sons
Strong hope and courage.
We here together stand;
We here together sing;
No man, no knowledge shall we spurn
Nor yet fear anything.



Staff 1949

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

A few weeks after the opening of the school - on 26th November, 1933, - the Headmaster called a meeting to set up a School Parent-Teacher Association whose primary object should be "to promote co-operation between Parents and Teachers with the view to furthering the interests of the pupils, individual and collective, and of the school in general".

For its day it was a rare innovation, far exceeding the scope of the customary annual school 'Open days'; it further proved to be a powerful and all-embracing force which linked school, pupil and home to the greater benefit of all three, and extended its influence throughout the school's wide catchment area.

Officials and committee were elected annually, and shortly after the War an important development in educational legislation enabled parents to elect their own parent representative to serve for a period of 3 years on the Governing Body of the School. This minor administrative revolution allowed parents some degree of access to the running of their school, and was the forerunner of such undreamed-of innovations as today's lay representation on medical

management bodies. From its inception, the post was most ably filled by a succession of outstanding personalities.

In the beginning the PTA had to fight against the reluctance of parents in general to become associated with what they regarded as a seat of higher learning beyond their reach. They were won over - and in increasingly larger numbers - by a policy based on well organized social activities, from Whist to Old Time dancing. In the early years, and even after the advent of television, a steady stream of well attended socials, concerts and 'At Homes' testifies to the natural appetite of the district, grounded in Church and Chapel functions, for 'a good night out'. For many years PTA socials, held several times a year - with printed invitation cards! - offered dancing and games in the old hall, military whist in what was the Art room, a creche in the little library, and copious refreshments provided and prepared by the ladies of the committee. Valuable gifts were presented for several raffles, and the Treasurer's Annual Report was always received with great satisfaction.

It was the PTA which in 1947 presented the plaque commemorating the names of old scholars who fell in the War, and the PTA which co-operated for many years with the Old Scholars Association to plan and fund the Memorial Pavilion opened in 1954.

In the early days of the school's life, PTA parents constructed the School running track, and provided stage curtains and camping equipment. In 1937 a PTA Scholarship Fund was set up to grant awards to pupils wishing to pursue higher education normally beyond their families' means.

And quietly, year after year, the PTA has provided from its funds a handsome grant to the School prize fund.

All these manifold activities should not detract from the extremely valuable parent-teacher contact maintained from the inception of the Association. As pupil numbers grew, and with them a complexity of educational oportunities, meetings proliferated to cover every major stage of the pupil's school life. To the year's quota of socials and 'At Home's' were added consultation meetings for 'new' parents, 3rd Form parents and children, Fifth Formers, Sixth Formers, etc. From the Sixties onwards pupil-orientation meetings - 'Careers Meetings' - had the valuable extra assistance of the members of the Youth Employment Service.

There was always a high degree of staff attendance, especially at 'business' meetings, held, as all PTA activities, outside school hours. In time the practice arose for them to be consulted from their classroom base, and many were the long queues of waiting 'patients' as the hours ticked on into the night.

Even E.R. Manley could not have fully realised, back in 1933, what a colossal machine for the welfare of school and home he was setting in motion. The PTA has brought pleasure and help to thousands (and not least to generations of staff), and has acted as a real power for good in the community it was designed to serve. Its existence and its crowded history are a tribute to the foresight and dynamism of the school's first headmaster.

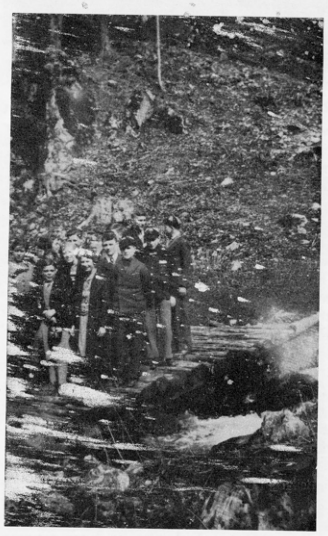
MEMORIES

A prefect system was established in 1935-6 with L.C. Allen and Joan Tate as Head Prefects. I joined that august body a year later, but had already had opportunity to write lines such as, "A prefect's order is to be obeyed." Somehow the second and third letters of the second word were transposed. More lines!

LINKS WITH EUROPE

When, soon after 1945, the American Marshall plan for aid to the devastated countries of Europe was sowing the seeds of the eventual reconciliation and union of France and Germany within the Common Market, RGS in its own small field was paving the way towards the amity of nations after the divisions created by the Second World War.

In this work, which continues to this day almost as a matter of course, but which reached a natural intensity during the Sixties and Seventies, we were greatly favoured by a succession of young French assistants from 1945 onwards who spent a scholastic year in the classroom and provided an invaluable link with their homeland. Much later we were to have the double bounty of German Assistanten - usually, though not always, male. The presence of these young Europeans amongst us - not only in school, but also in many local social contexts - brought us the whiff of another culture, another language, another unknown country. Many of them have retained their association with us, and look back with pleasure on their Rothwell days.



Black Forest 1937

It was, typically, ERM who after the War swiftly renewed links forged by him in the Thirties, and in the Summer of 1947 organised our first visit to France. Symbolically, he chose Dieppe, with its memories of the 1943 raid, and here a party of principally senior pupils spent a pleasant fortnight in a French boarding-school vacated for the holidays. Unfortunately, our contacts on that trip were few, most French pupils being away on holiday.

It fell to the national pedogogic institution, the Modern Language Association, to inaugurate and expand a series of exchange schemes - Yorkshire/Lille and Yorkshire/Westphalia - which eventually became numerically so successful that they were soon taken over and administered by County Hall.

The idea was the brain-child of, among others, Mr. H.S. Otter, Head of French at RGS in the early Fifties. Each year, hundreds of French children, having been suitably paired beforehand, arrive in Yorkshire in July, are accommodated by their English counterparts, then travel back together to the Lille district (covering much of Northern France), where the English pupil is received by the French family. The German exchange works on similar lines.

Party sets out for Le Mans 1939

By 1963, 70 RGS pupils were taking part in the Yorkshire/Lille scheme, representing about one in five of the eligible roll, and by the mid-seventies upwards of 1000 had taken part - a per capita total higher than that of any other Yorkshire school. Whilst, inevitably, not all exchanges were fully successful, nevertheless there were many repeat exchanges (some, from long years ago, are still repeated privately), and there came a time when 'going on the French exchange' was almost as popular as 'going to Field Studies Camp'. Sometimes, indeed, the two activities were fused.

As for post-war German visits and exchanges, it is difficult for us at this distance in time to conceive the psychological barriers which existed among the older generation when schemes were mooted to have a German boy to stay. The problem was solved for us in a most happy way. In 1951 The W. Riding Chief Education Officer persuaded us to accept a German schoolboy for a term. His name was Hans-Gunther Wagemann, and he proved to be the most delightful ambassador any country could have sent. We began wondering how we should 'billet' him for a whole term; so popular was he that there was soon a long waiting-list, which was never fully exhausted.

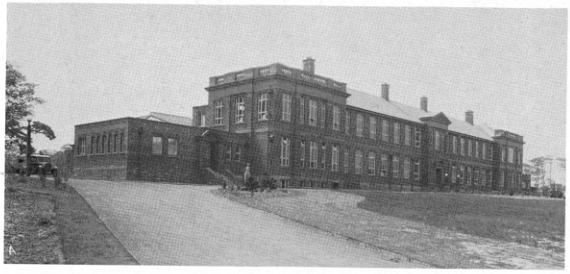
After this experience, full exchanges with Germany (sometimes for a whole term), under the Yorks/Westphalia scheme (sometimes in collaboration with Mr. Barnes' Castleford G.S.), or privately with two schools in Bonn, grew in numbers, and provided, apart from social integration, useful German practice for our budding linguists.

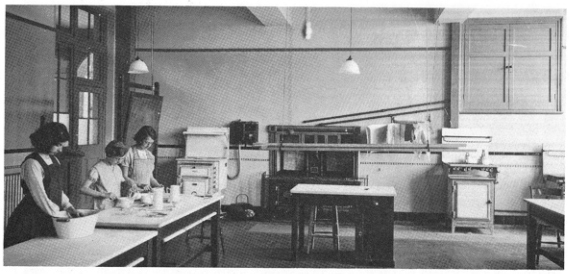
When the Memorial Pavilion to the pupils who fell in the 1939-45 War was officially opened one May evening in 1954, we were able to witness the touching scene of one of our Sixth-Formers (Ken Hardman) stepping aside to let his German guest enter the building first - and the latter insisting that his friend should take precedence.

In 1963 a Swedish Exchange scheme was introduced and, despite its extra expense,

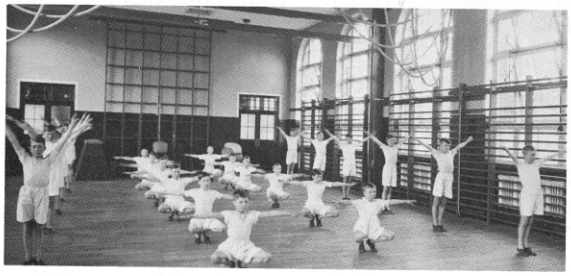
Camp Little Stretton 1939

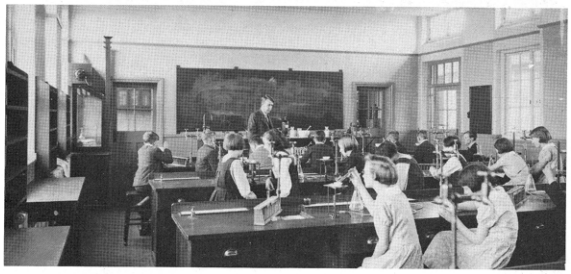
Much Wenlock 1990





Looking Back.
These photographs were taken in 1934:- The gymnasium is now the Art Room; the Hall is the Library; the Home Economics room the Staff Room, and the Laboratory has just been updated after sixty years of use.





Staff of 1969

Staff of 1977

Prize Winners of 1969

provided a steady stream of Swedish contacts over the years. Also two Dutch boys, Henk van der Zee and Pieter Kruesmann, each spent a year at school and Henk still maintains contacts with friends made at RGS. An American girl, Dawn Boyer attended school in 1956-7.

During 1992 we made our first contacts with Goethe Gymnasium from Dortmund who brought to Rodillian their orchestra to give nine performances to a variety of Yorkshire audiences. We hope that this is the first of many fruitful exchanges.

MEMORIES

School dinners at RGS were really special, Mrs. Kirby being a super cook. (In pre-war years there was no local Authority School Meals Service and the Headmaster's responsibilities included the organisation of school meals and he and the cook arranged menus, purchasing and charges subject to Governors' approval.) The highlight of the week was Rabbit Pie day. I remember such a day. The hot tray was out in the corridor because we dined in classrooms. Two stewards were ready to carry in the rabbit pie. Alas, disaster struck because someone dropped it on the floor. I asked Mr.Kirby what the alternative was. He shook his head and said, "It's this or bully beef." Not another word was said. We all went into action and swiftly scraped up the pie, placing it back in the dish. I served it out and everyone at the table vowed it was the most delicious rabbit pie they had ever tasted.

CYCLING TOURS

The first mention of a cycling trip by Rodillian pupils comes in an article by G. Graham in the November 1937 School Magazine on a tour of Yorkshire:

"In the Easter holidays a party of eight cyclists started off to Ilkley Youth Hostel, on the first stage of a cycling tour to see some of the old churches, abbeys and castles of Yorkshire, and to study their artitecture. The weather was wet, and to add to our discomfiture we lost our way in the muddy woods of the Harewood estate. However, after being directed to the road again, we were able to make good speed to Ilkley. Here, a hot supper was waiting for us and after a rest in the common room we tumbled into bed".

The rest of the short tour took in Skipton Castle, Bolton Abbey, Middleham Castle, Ripon, Knaresborough and York. "After that," the report concludes, "some went to Selby, whilst three of our number returned home."

The next year, Miss Parkin led a half-term cycling tour (in February!), again to Selby and York, where the party again split up "Because of a gash in a tyre which required mending every two or three miles." R. Ward then reports: "Rising early next morning we again took to the road, and half a dozen of us decided to visit Scarborough. We arrived there about 2 p.m. and after an hour's grand time we set off home, which, after many stoppages, we reached about one o'clock in the morning, having covered about 160 miles in two days."

During the Easter holiday of the same year a group cycled further afield, to the Roman Wall. As usual, a puncture split the group, so that some of the party never saw the Wall at all.

The War did not stop the tours, and the 1941 magazine mentions a cycling trip at Whitsuntide.

Ten years after the first tour, the 1948 trip took in Derbyshire, Staffordshire and

Cheshire. The opening of the report by M.E. Baynes conveys the enthusiasm evoked by E.R. Manley:

"Six o'clock in the morning is an hour unknown to most of us here at School, but on the morning of April 5th this year, the few people who were in the Bull Ring at that hour found Mr. Manley, brave man, with thirteen of his boys, discovering just what it was like to be an early riser.

We were a happy crowd of boys for all the drawbacks of the early morning, and we were all itching to be on the road, longing to find out what beautiful countryside lay ahead of us, what magnificent old buildings Mr. Manley was planning to take us to, and what unexpected happenings would occur. By 6.10 a.m. every one of us was feeling the cold frosty morning air in his face and airing his knees, for we all wore shorts."

The next Easter saw the first use of the train to tour further afield, Mr. Manley leading the party to North Wales.

1950 saw the first venture abroad, with Mr. Manley, Miss Blakey and Miss Silvester taking a party of 11 boys and 3 girls to Holland. Mr. Manley's account of the sea crossing from Hull to Rotterdam reports briskly "There was some sea-sickness", but Miss Blakey remembers wishing that she could die! Another vivid memory of this trip was at least one meal which included large quantities of plain boiled potatoes with rhubarb as the second vegetable.

This was the first of eight cycling tours in Holland, the last being in 1963, with Mr. Manley still leading, even in his retirement year. The same place-names recur year after year: Meppel, Sneek, Volendam, Amersfoort, Arnhem and Aalten, where the cyclists stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Rexwinkel and their friends. Non-cyclists may think that flat country like Holland is ideal for cycling, but, as the 1963 report observes, "One mile is exactly like another, and after a very few of them against the persistent pressure of the north-east wind, one wishes there were less of them." Other impressions of the trips to Holland are included in the 1955 report: "The kindness of the Dutch people, the speed and cheapness of cycle repairs, the richness of the pasture lands and the number of dairy herds, the cleanliness and the colourfulness of the houses, the roughness of some of the roads and cycle tracks, the friendliness of the hostels and, last in time but now in permanency an appalling stench of the between-deck accommodation when we embarked."

Other tours during the 1950's included and epic Summer one in 1950 when Messrs. Cooper, Kale, Towler, Horn and Laverack rode to Cornwall and back, a journey of 1000 miles in 14 days.

One disappointing feature of the cycling trips of this time was the declining number of women staff and girl pupils taking part. Whereas the 1951 party to Holland consisted of 22 boys and girls, and was led by Miss Blakey, Miss Silvester, Mrs. Chattel and Miss Nugent, by 1956 the only females were Jean Calvert and Christine Sykes, the last girls for nearly 25 years!

In the early 1960's, the Dutch trips were interspersed with tours of Ireland and Scotland, and the 1963 visit to Holland marked the end of an era. For the next 20 years, with the exception of two tours of Ireland, the annual Whit. trip was by train to the Scottish Highlands, led first by Mr. Bent, then by Mr. Windsor, then for many years by Mr. Tordoff and Mr. Summerwill, with Mr. McAskie in the late 1970's.

Although the tour took a different route each year, certain places recur frequently on the route maps: many a weary Rodillian has cycled round the top of Loch Fyne with the white facade of Inverary visible for miles, yet never seeming any closer, and how often have we battled over Rannoch Moor against wind and rain only to find the drying-room at Glencoe out

of order, or walked the front of Oban watching the sun set over the islands? Kingussie and its station, Lock Lochy and its forests and the old wooden hostel at Tomintoul are not easily forgotten. Sometimes the whole tour has seemed to be a tour of Scottish bridges: there can be few bridges in the Highlands that have not at some time served a Rodillian party as shelter from the rain, as a base for bathing, or simply somewhere to rest, eat sandwiches and throw stones in the water.

The variety of the food has improved over the years, thanks largely to Mr. Summerwill's determination to provide a different menu for every meal. The fruit salad has often been the high-spot of the tour, though the same cannot always be said of the bread-and-butter pudding, even when it has not been burnt!

In recent years some routes have included a "rough stuff" alternative section over unmade tracks, pioneered by the much-lamented Paddy McAskie with his crossing of the 2507-foot Corrievairack pass to Loch Lochy, where his party glissaded down snow-slopes on their capes. The 1982 route took the whole party over the Capel Mounth pass between Glen Doll and Ballater, over terrain that would make a BMX track look like a billiard table.

The 1980's welcomed the first females for nearly 25 years, with Elaine Hargrave being chaperoned in successive years by Miss Beisty, Mrs. Guy and Miss Goddard, while Julie Sowery's epic part in the 1982 Irish trip augured well for the future, if only for its entertainment value.

During the last 60 years, hundreds of scholars and teachers have taken part in Rodillian cycling-trips. Stometimes the weather has been wild, often the road has been uphill, but no-one who has made the journey can fail to feel the pride of achievement. Long may it be so!

MEMORIES

During the first year P.E. was held on Monday mornings. Miss Robinson from Morley Grammar School took this lesson, and one rule was that a shower be taken after P.E. Miss Robinson was a great adherent to this rule, and came into the boys' changing room to ensure that it was enforced. I must add that this caused consternation and embarrassment to us ten and eleven year olds.

SCHOOL PLAY

With a man like E.R. Mamley as headmaster, it was inevitable that spoken English would be important in the life of this school. This is evident from the early school magazines, for not only did the Headmaster provide prizes for Spoken English, but the first School Concert in 1933 included three plays. The first magazine reports: "On December 15th and 16th, the school gave its first concert, which consisted of musical items and one-act plays. The plays were "Goblin Market", adapted by E.R. Manley, "The Princess and the woodcutter", by A.A. Milne and the "Poetasters of Ispahan" by Clifford Bax. The costumes and curtains were made by Mrs. Manley, Mrs. Jeffery, Miss Wright, Miss Turner and Miss Hartley, and some of the parents. Mr. Manley painted the backcloths with the assistance of Mr. Gabriel, and produced the plays. Mr. Jeffrey and Mr. Selwyn Wright, with the assistance of many of the boys, constructed the staging and wired the lighting.

This concert, with its emphasis on clarity of spoken English, set the tone for dramatic

productions in schools for the next 30 years. When a correspondent of "The Times Educational Supplement" reviewed the First Forms Plays in 1960, he began his review:

"When stage productions at Rothwell Grammar School fall due for notice, it has always to be re-stated that their primary aim is not the entertainment of audiences - though invariably they provide it - but the gathering into a play of as many pupils of the school, or a section of it, as may be possible. The play must have parts which are not only enough to go round, but which also bring everyone in turn into the limelight. If no such play can be found, there is nothing for it but to resort to 'do it yourself' methods. Consequently, Mr. E..R. Manley, headmaster, is by now a practised playwright and a very successful one within his self-prescribed terms of reference."

A School Magazine article entitled "A Play Rehearsal" gives an insight into Mr. Manley's rehearsal techniques: "First of all come the voice production exercises. These consist chiefly of a series of A-A-A-A-A-A's, which serve as protection from all intruders, for, when they open the door they are often greeted by sounds similar to a flock of sheep about to be shorn ... No rehearsal can be perfect without the criticisms of the producer, but as these were chiefly actions which can only by appreciated when seen, I will not attempt to describe them."

As early as 1938 came the first full-length play, "The Fourth Wall" by A.A. Milne, with a cast including Edna Jones, Jack Smith, J.V. Bower, Julian Ledger, Iris Knowles, Peter Holmes, Winifred Chapman, Herbert Wade, Ronald Wilcock, Edward Giswold and Hugh Fish.

The basic pattern of dramatic production in school included a Christmas Concert, consisting usually of two or three large-cast one-act plays or excerpts from longer plays, at least one produced and often written by the Headmaster, and a full-length play in the Spring Term, again produced by the Headmaster and cast from the upper school.

The Importance Of Being Ernest - 1944

After each performance, Mr. Manley would appear on stage to tell the audience (not always very audibly, if truth be told!) that, while he hoped that they had enjoyed the occasion, the main aim had been to encourage confidence and clear speech in the actors.

The full-length plays were often costume dramas, frequently adapted by Mr. Manley from historical material or Jane Austen's novels. These included "Emma" (1947 and 1956), "The Rivals" (1953), "The Bennets" (1954), "The Pastons" (1955 and 1963), "The Lisles" (1957) and "Pride and Prejudice" (1961). If the size of the casts and the efforts of the Rodillian actors to speak clear, formal English sometimes meant that the productions were not as dramatic as they might have been, there is no doubt that E.R. Manley was succeeding in his avowed aims. Perhaps his most original productions were "Mr. Lear", his own modernised interpretation of "King Lear", and "Ring for Dr. Wainwright" his modern setting of the Hamlet situation.

Other full-length plays at this time included "Quiet Weekend" (1948 and 1959), "Pygmalion" (1949), "Captain Brassbound's Conversion" (1952), "Escape" (1958) and "Toad of Toad Hall" (1960).

The Christmas Concert plays often saw old favourites repeated, especially of the fairy-tale variety. These included "Fat King Melon", "The Pied Piper", "The Knave of Hearts", " The Stammering Princess", "The Princess and the Swineherd", and "The Crimson Coconut".

In addition to the School Play and the Christmas Concert, the postwar years also saw a surge of other dramatic activity in school.

In 1948, Miss Blakey and Mr. Vaughan combined their talents to evoke from a mixed cast of staff and scholars a performance of "The Mikado" which is still remembered with affection. Mr. Manley reported:

"Outstanding performances were those of John F. Lowe as Ko-Ko and Dr. K. Laybourn as Pooh-Bah. John Lowe exploited to the full an elastic physiognomy and his movements and singing were in the true vein of Gilbertian comedy. Dr. Laybourn was impressively pompous. Mr. Metcalf was impressive as the Mikado; Mr. Wise got the utmost out of the thankless part of Pish-Tush; Peter Kilburn gave a particularly musical performance as Nanki-Poo, Kathleen Hall

School Play - 1952

gained rounds of applause in the exacting part of Katisha, and the " Three Little Maids" danced and sang delightfully. Particularly pleasing was Margaret Rhodes in "The Sun Whose Rays", Nancy Kilburn in "Sit with Downcast Eye" and Maureen Ridyard in her comedy scenes. However, in spite of its success, this was the only full-length musical presented in school for many years.

There were, in compensation, several Staff Plays, providing pupils with that unique pleasure of watching their teachers deliberately making fools of themselves. Mr. Hever produced "Dr. Knock" in 1949, and Mr. Manley followed with "You Never Can Tell" in 1950. The following years saw "Laburnum Grove" (1952), "The Importance of Being Earnest" (1953), "When We Are Married" (1955) and "Hobson's Choice" (1958). Staff who starred in these productions included Mr. Porter, Mr. Booth, Mr Bulmer, Mr. Otter, Mr. Hever, Miss Dean, Miss Simpson and Miss Silvester. One name that appeared on the programmes almost as often as Mr. Manley's was that of Mr. E.R. Shaw, whose scenery has enhanced school production of all sorts for many years.

It was, perhaps, too much to expect this histrionic effervescence amongst the post-war staff to last for ever, and as their enthusiasm declined, Staff Plays became less frequent, though "When We Are Married" was produced (again!) in 1965, with Mr. Firth contributing a memorable performance as Ormonroyd, the drunken photographer, and "The Love of Four Colonels" followed in 1966. In 1974 "The Happiest Days of Your Life" introduced a new generation of teachers to staff plays, including Miss Steggar, Mr. Jones, Mr. Gration, Mr. Law, Mr. Uttley, Mr. Wood, Mr. R.G. Needham, Miss Evans, Mrs. Davison, Miss Brown and Miss Smart.

When Mr. Manley retired, he was replaced by Mr. Tordoff as producer. By now the Sixth Form was always large enough for an annual large-cast play to be performed entirely by the Lower Sixth. To cast a play from only one year in the school meant, of course, ignoring the claims of better actors from other years, but the Lower Sixth Play served to unify each group as it entered the Sixth Form, and certainly coaxed onto the stage scholars who often surprised the audience (and themselves!) with their talent. The different choice of plays and emphasis on the dramatic sometimes led to complaints of inaudibility, rarely voiced in the Manley era, but in general the tradition continued of giving as many scholars as possible at least one experience of appearing on stage.

As drama had developed in the school as a separate subject, Mr. J. Law had been appointed in the school as Head of Drama Department in 1978, and it was a logical step for him to take over the production of the Lower Sixth Play. Many previous productions had contained some music, including "Dark of the Moon", "1066 And All That" and especially "The Stirrings in Sheffield", which gained greatly from the singing of Alison Procter, Jeanette Brook, Alison Sheard, Sally Thorp and Debbie Williamson. Mr. Law continued this trend with "Oh What a Lovely War", then after "Taking Our Time" and "By Common Consent", he launched into full-scale musicals with "Sweeney Todd" and "Dazzle", with the aid of Mr. [illegible]'s musical talent.

In the years after Mr. Manley's retirement, the tradition of the Junior Concert continued in the form of Second-Form Plays. As long as the school intake was three or four forms, it was possible for every Second-Form to stage a play, as part of one evening's entertainment, but the change to eight-form entry ruled this out, and the Second-Form Concert now consists of three plays cast from volunteers, though around 100 pupils usually take part.

Finding large-cast plays is always a problem, and Mr. Tordoff, like Mr. Manley before him, was driven to writing his own, though never anything as ambitious as Mr. Manley's "Willow and

Jade". His contributions to the repertoire included "Ticket to Hitsville" (a modern version of "The Pied Piper") "The Assembly Show", "The Class Struggle" and "The Horse Box". Other favourites over the years have indluded "Us and Them", "Olaf and the Ogre", "Here is Your Life", "A Day in the Life of Tich Oldfield", "Ernie's Incredible Illucinations" and "Robbie Nudd and his Merry Men".

During its first 60 years, the school has remained true to the ideal of presenting plays which are entertaining but which also provide opportunities for as many pupils as possible to experience the fun of working together to present a play before an audience. There is no doubt that for many pupils their appearances on the stage have been among the highlights of their life in school, and the school would be the poorer were the tradition ever to decay.

THE RODILLIAN SINGERS

After a concert given in honour of Mr. Manley's retirement, it was decided that a ladies' choir should be formed. The name "Rodillian Singers" was chosen at an inaugural meeting, and the first rehearsal was held on Friday 13th March, 1964. That date, traditionally thought of as unlucky, proved a good one for the choir as, nearly twenty years on, it is still going from strength to strength. In fact, on Friday 13th May this year, the choir won two first prizes at the Pontefract Festival, plus an extra award for gaining the highest mark in the choral classes.

Of the forty five ladies now singing, about half have been members for fifteen years, with 4 singers from the original group. Most are former pupils, or wives of "old boys".

Miss Joyce Blakey, music mistress for nearly 35 years until her (premature!) retirement in 1979, has conducted the choir throughout, and it is undoubtedly due to her strength and talent that the singers have kept their form. She rules now, as ever, with a rod of iron, insisting that every member give not only her best, but more than that. Over the years, a great bond of loyalty and affection has developed between Miss Blakey and her "girls" which is reflected in the fact that in these days of falling numbers in choral groups, the Rodillian Singers have more members than ever.

So what's been happening in these twenty years? Lots! The choir has had several television appearances, starting with "Choirs on Sunday" in 1968, then two seasons of "Stars on Sundays" in 1977 and 1978 and a very brief showing on "The South Bank Show" this year.

In September 1980, the choir made a terrific hit in Herne, Germany, during a weekend visit to a festival of song, and had a wonderful time there. As a mark of thanks the Herne ladies' choir was invited back here in the summer of 1982, when joint concerts were performed, and it is hoped that the friendship will long continue.

The first choir dress was short, in French navy, with round neck and short sleeves. As fashions have changed, so have the dresses, but choosing a new one is never easy - everyone has a different idea! In 1981, "She" magazine was consulted for ideas, and as a result they published a feature on the choir, and presented each member with a new dress designed especially for them. The Rodillian Singers have since been described as "stunning" on several occasions in the cherry-red long dress they now wear.

The music sung by the choir varies to suit the occasion, from modern 'pop' tunes that everyone knows, to fast and furious festival test pieces, from two part songs to five parts.

They rehearse every Friday evening, and have given concerts in chapels, churches and halls

School Choir 1947: They Sang 'Hiawatha's Wedding'.

throughout the area and beyond!

In an article about the choir in "The Dalesman" in May 1969, a passage reads:-

"They will not rest on their musical laurels until they have won a first at Blackpool"

Well, it hasn't happened yet. But it will! Just you wait!

THE SPOKEN WORD

Another brain-child of the Modern Language Association of which we were to take full advantage was the series of bi-ennial 'Spoken Word' competitions - a kind of linguistic Mastermind.

These contests, designed to stimulate oral proficiency in French, German, Spanish and Russian, draw on all secondary schools in the County of Yorkshire. Poems and prose passages suitable for three age levels are set for study, and candidates are weeded out in a series of school and then local bye-contests. The final contest, held before distinguished native judges at the University of Leeds, was a strong test of talent and nerve. RGS had, over the years, the honour of gaining First Prizes in all three age sections of both French and German speaking.

One remembers a favoured candidate of about 12, whose father reported on the final day that she was in bed with tonsillitis. He was persuaded to warm up his car and bring her before the judges in a blanket. She was ushered before them, whispered her piece, and was whisked home. Her First Prize was later taken to her bedside. (Sheena Robertson)

MEMORIES

Hot meals were served at lunch-time in the Hall, and each "table" endured, a week at a time, a week at Miss Hartley's table where their individual and collective table manners were rigorously scrutinized.

Mr. G.W. Merry, the first groundsman, played rugby for Burley, so part of his job was to teach the boys Rugby. He did a good job.

RODILLIAN SIXTH FORM: AN IMPRESSION

The first time I ever saw real live 6th Formers in their native habitat I must confess I was rather impressed; this strange reaction can be put down to the fact I was only a junior-school big boy whereas they were the product of 7 years a grammar school. Somebody said something original about these being young adults launching out into life and that our time at Rodillian would make up the difference between us. At the time I supposed that they meant Rodillian itself would change us, and was worried when on our subsequent tour the only thing I understood was a biology class dissecting worms. I decided only two things on that visit: a), I didn't want to know about worms and b), the Head Boy was the one with the moustache, not the skirt. It was in the second year that I realised not all 6th Formers were a yard taller than I was.

The 6th Form can be a bit of a letdown in some ways. Nobody salutes even our own magnificent Head Boy/Girl, let alone common or garden Lower Sixth, and half as many subjects seems by a strange mathematical accident to mean twice as much work. Perhaps we could remedy the former problem by making the difference in uniform more noticeable (how about pink/green stripe ties for the gentlemen and ladies' blouses advertising 'I am a Sixth Former'?)

However, there is an easy way to be noticed round school. Become a prefect. If you like refereeing 5-a-side matches and organising quizzes this is the life for you - it must be said that some people do seem to like it and get something out of it. Making this service voluntary has been a definite step forward - when I was in a lower form, we rarely saw our conscripted prefects.

There are also advantages to being a 6th Former. The immediately noticeable ones are free periods and access to the cheapest profit-making coffee bar in Western Europe. Whether the coffee will remain at 5p a cup with the arrival of the budding capitalists in charge of the 5th Form coffee bar (a very inferior establishment) remains to be seen, but at the present time visiting workmen prefer buying ours to bringing their own. Speaking personally free periods were something of an annoyance (I had fewer than anyone else) but on the whole they seem to be used profitably. The inclination to work, incidentally, seems stronger in the Lower than the Upper 6th this year: proof is that hardly anyone in the Lower 6th (unlike us the previous year) is willing to have a week off school to go to camp!

I might hasten to add here that relationships between Upper and Lower 6th have flourished over the past year and there seems to be evidence that this trend will continue with the arrival of the present 5th Form. None of the Lower 6th, I must confess, has actually said in my hearing that they will be sorry to see us go, but they're a sensitive lot and wouldn't want to

upset us like that. I digress, however.

About the academic side of 6th Form life I will say very little, not wishing to frighten our 5th Form brethren and sisters or offend our illustrious teaching staff. Two points I would like to make: 'A' levels are much harder than 'O' levels; they can be more fun if you pick up the right subject.

The social side of things is catered for well in this our 50th year: perhaps however the founders in 1933 would not have predicted the scenes at the (very successful) fancy-dress discos or the 6th Form Social, which given a bit more rehearsal time might have been even funnier; as co-author of the script I ought in all modesty to know. Everyone seems to enjoy themselves at these events, perhaps because (dare I suggest it ?) they are teetotal.

Given any luck in the forthcoming 'A' levels I shall not be here for the 51st year but if it is as profitable for the 6th Form as the 49th and 50th, which I was privileged to observe, it will have done well .

MEMORIES

Rifle Drill in the Air- Training Corps - firing 22's in the School Hall and putting the odd bullet through the panelling in to the kitchen.

THE ORIGINS OF THE SIXTH FORM (LEAVERS) DINNER

In the days when Rothwell Grammar School was - as was frequently observed - "one big happy family" - the establishment was blessed with the single coal-driven Domestic Science Room. In those days, on Friday afternoons, after school, the Sixth Form descended on this sanctum to hold what was grandiloquently called a Meeting of the Sixth Form Discussion Group. I do not recollect what was discussed or what conclusions were reached: no doubt much tea was drunk.

In the course of time, this was voted to be somewhat inadequate, and it was decided to do something rather grand: in short to hold a "Discussion Group Dinner". For a number of years this took place in what was then the Sixth Form Room. It is somewhat remarkable that a full meal for some fifty people could be produced from scratch almost entirely after school and served up by seven o'clock. But no one seemed to suffer and we had over the years some excellent speeches by members of the goup, with the occasional visitor from outside.

As the years passed things inevitably changed; splinter groups appeared - one for instance was the Geography Society who held their own dinner, and if I remember rightly the Discussion Group Dinner as such suffered an eclipse.

However, with the advent of a new Headmaster, Mr. Barnes, in 1964, it was felt that it would be a good idea to hold an Annual Dinner for members of the S ixth Form; and after various ideas had been mooted it was decided to hold such an event for all those members of the Sixth Form who would be leaving immediately after the end of the 'A' Level Examinations, so that this would be the last appearance in school for those leavers. Any members of staff who cared to come along were invited - and many of them did so, but I think it was always the policy

not to invite outside guests, at least as speakers.

And so the Leaver's Dinner was launched in 1967, and continues to flourish to this day.

As the Sixth Form increased in size, so the numbers attending the dinner became larger and of late years the Assembly Hall was filled.

The meal itself was organised by the Domestic Science Staff and the Head of the School Kitchen - for many years Mrs. Stout - did splendid service in preparing the main course. The pattern of the evening was to meet in the Library and then at a resounding signal to proceed to the Hall. Food having been disposed of - preceded by a mumbled Latin grace produced by Mr. Leach from his dim and distant past - the essential business of the evening began. This consisted of a number of speeches by members of the school who had been carefully volunteered for the honour.

It was usually the lot of the Head Boy/Head Girl - sometimes both in chorus - to propose a toast to the School: over the years there have been some excellent speeches here. This would then be replied to by the Headmaster or a senior member of staff. Many of us remember with gratitude Mr. Barnes' replies on these occasions: always amusing and to the point, but always with a note of serious purpose at the end.

A member of staff would propose a Toast to "The Leavers", replied to by one of their number. This gave ample opportunity - usually taken - of settling some old scores.

I, myself, look back with pleasure to these gatherings, for which I had the privilege of acting as, for want of a better description - Chairman, for many years. This permitted me, thankfully, never to have to make a speech; and also to concentrate on my role as trifle-maker. I don't think - at least I hope - that no one suffered unduly from either of these activities.

SCHOOL SPORT - RUGBY

The school was already active on the Rugby field in its first year of existence, but who could have predicted that from the original under 13 team coachd by M. Merry and captained by D. Worth would develop over the years teams equal of any in Yorkshire.

The first match was against Wakefield Grammar School, a prize 'scalp' on occasions, and it must have been heartening for those pioneers to come away wih a 6-6 draw. The first victory was 22-0 over Hemsworth G.S. and altogether 21 boys represented the School in that 1933 season - about half the boys in the School. Worth continued to captain the side which registered a memorable 6-5 victory over Wakefield.

The 1936-37 team was a side of real quality and won 10 of its 12 matches. H. Woolley was the captain and D. Hartley was a fine scrum half, a position in which the school has been well served over the years.

Rubgy got underway again after the war and by 1947 R.G.S. had built up an impressive fixture list playing 10 good rugby schools, many of them home and away. D. Jagger, captain, was described as 'a grand forward and a great asset to any team'. He was, of course, to captain Leeds University and the U.A.U. and go on to become the School's first Old Scholar to play Rugby Union for Yorkshire. His vice-captain W.V. Fozzard was also a prominent member of the team and a prolific points scorer with his goal kicking.

The 1950 team, captained by B. Thompson, included C.G. Naylor at scrum half who formed a good half back partnership with T. Rudge. When he captained the team in 1951/52,

Naylor was described as "probably the best scrum half the school has had for many years'. At that time the Rodillians had not been formed and Rothwell Grammar School rugby players went to Sandal, Wakefield and Castleford for their club rugby. Naylor captained Castleford and had a brief excursion into Rugby League, a venture that was cut short due to injury.

The 1952/53 team lost only to Wakefield and Hemsworth. It was captained by C. Ward and had another talented scrum half in P. Longley with Lockwood, Rudge, Smith, Tolley and Idle forming the nucleus of the team.

The following season was even better with 20 out of 21 matches won (the only defeat was at the hands of the Old Boys) and the 524 points scored was easily a record. Harry Tolley headed the list of try scorers and the full list is worth producing:

Scorers

Tries: H. Tolley 24, R. Lockwood 23, P Longley 20, C. lumb 16, P. Harvey 11, I. Taylor 10, G. Smith 9, G. Hattersley 9, N. Whitmarsh 7, D. Haigh 3, B. Ward 3, R. Jenkinson 3, B. Longley 2, E. Abbs 2, M. Haley 1, E. Caines 1. Goals: D Haigh 63, G. Hattersley 11, H. Tolley 3.

That season produced the first success in the Ilkley 'Sevens' from an R.G.S. team. Following some close matches against Wath-on-Derne, West Leeds, Crossley and Porter and Leeds G.S. the opponents in the final were Heath G.S., experts at sevens game and undefeated since the Ilkley tournament began. The result was a crushing 29-0 victory for Rothwell and tries by Longley (3), Lockwood (2), and Tolley, and 4 goals by Haigh. The team on that memorable occasion was H. Tolley (Capt.), P. D. Longley, D. Haigh, M. Haley, R. Lockwood, G. Smith, I.F. Taylor.

With many of the same players available in 1954/5, including Tolley as captain again, that season was almost as successful and a feature was a Scottish tour with three matches played and won. The Scottish tour was to become an enjoyable feature of the fixture list for several seasons.

Peter Harvey took over as captain and Ken Hardman was rapidly establishing himself as a fast, intelligent centre. With Roy Place, later to gain senior County honours, at stand-off there was a powerful back division and the side lost only two matches, conceding only 76 points throughout the season. In his second year of captaincy Harvey was rewarded for some outstanding wing threequarter play when he was selected for Yorkshire Schools against Durham.

1957/8 saw Hardman captain a rather inexperienced team from the stand-off position with Bob Newton as vice-captain. Hardman's contribution was immense and he not only played for Yorkshire Schools, but made the final England trial. He was later to become a prolific scorer for the Rodillians as a winger.

The following season, with Newton as captain, had Keith Howe at stand-off and he went on to play for Sandal and the Rodillian club. However, he turned professional and his try scoring record in a season still stands. More important, he picked up a cup winner's medal at Wembley when the Castleford team beat Salford in 1969.

Throughout the sixties, the Rothwell Grammar School teams maintained the high standards expected of them and were led successfully by M. Chattoe, P. Hargreaves, I. Salisbury, I. Daniels, R.G. Annable, J. Reeves, P. Sykes, P. Ramsden, J. Jackson, R. Wilcox, S. Smith., The teams captained by Daniels and Annable had excellent records without quite achieving the brilliance of some earlier teams. Then in 1970-71 came a quite outstanding team winning 27 out of 28 matches, losing only to the equally talented Roundhay team 6-3. That team scored no less than 691 points and conceded only 81 including a mere 8 touch downs. It is this scoring record

which suggests that the 1970-71 team was even better than the 1953-54, team, but a match between them would have been fascinating.

As well was an outstanding record in the 15-a-side game they won the Ilkley 'sevens', the Pontefract 'sevens', and retained the Bridlington 'sevens'. That team had everything: a well-drilled pack whose rucking and set-piece work provided the backs with the possession for them to demonstrate their superior skill and speed. C.J. Howcroft captained the side which included Neil Bennett and Derek Wright who both played for Yorkshire Schools. It is worth reproducing this extract from the 1971 Rodillian magazine.

> The team has been settled for most of the season and the following players kept their places permanently.
>
> P.R. Artis: a competent full back whose covering and defensive ability has never been in doubt. He has an exceptionally powerful right boot and has contributed over 200 points in goal kicks.
>
> N.C. Bennett: his powerful straight running has made him leading try scorer for the second year running, with 34 touch downs. His skill has brought him county honours.
>
> N. Radcliffe: his defensive work and straight running have been a great asset to the side. He works hard to give his winger ample opportunities. He is also a good substitue goal kicker.
>
> S.L. Smith: his power has been much appreciated in the front row.With his co-front rower he has been a great asset in the loose rucks and has backed up well.
>
> C.S. Mack: the great character of this side. His quick changes of speed and direction have earned him over 20 tries.
>
> D. Wright: he has played with greater confidence throughout the year and his ability to create openings has earned him his Yorkshire place.
>
> K.B. Young: without doubt one of the best ball handling scrum halves the school has ever known. His reading of the game, for a boy of 15, he should have a great future.
>
> S. Ellis: a hard, strong prop who has used aggression to create good openings for the side. A good stealer of the ball.
>
> J.S. Tennant: has won majority ball in every game he has played and his 'loose' play has made him a valuable player to the side.
>
> R.S. Farrer: has been the dominant forward in lineout work, putting his height to good effect. He is leading try scorer among the forwards
>
> S.J. Firth: his first season in first team rugby has proved him to be a sound competent player. He should do well with increased experience.
>
> C.M. Gill: has used the pack extremely well and his disruption of the opposition's attack created good second phase possesion. He is vice-captain of the team.
>
> A. Hampshire: a sound number 8 who never gives up and backs up exceptionally well.
>
> W. Blair: he came into the side late into the season, when his

covering strengthenend the side's defence.
M.G. Fergusson: he has played for two-thirds of the season and held his own well.

The following also played: Coran, Turner, Brook, Moulds, Willcox and Booth.

C. J. Howcroft (Captain)

C. J. Howcroft: perhaps the best attacking centre in Yorkshire schoolboy rugby this year. His skill as a player and captain has made a great contribution to the team's success. He is considered by many to have been very unlucky indeed no to have gained a place in the Yorkshire XV.

E.Sale (Games Master)

Winners of Ilkley Sevens - 1954

First Rugby Team after the War - 1946/47

The following season proved almost as successful with 21 wins out of 25 matches. Bennett was captain and led by example retaining his place in the Yorkshire Schools, carrying on the fine tradition of scrum half play at the School. Bennett gained senior County honours as did Chris Taylor from that same team, while Taylor, Phil Artis, Jeff Tennant and Bryan Gater went on to play Rugby League. Gater, in fact, won County Schools honours and went on to captain the 1st XV.

A difficult period followed when we were without pitches. The M62 construction and the School extensions made life very difficult for School sport and Rugby fixtures survived at Manley Park through the generosity of the Rodillian R.U.F.C. Standards were maintained and a new 'peak' was reached when we beat Leeds Grammar School in the final of the Leeds Schools cup after narrowly losing the previous year. To beat a School with some three hundred sixth form boys and with a great rugby tradition under floodlights at Headingley must rank alongside the Ilkley successes as one of the outstanding moments in the School's sporting history.

David Cooper was captain of that cup-winning 1980-81 team which included at scrum half Neil Gemmell who gained County schoolboy honours and went on to captain the School team. While playing for Headingley colts, Gemmell was likened to the great Dickie Jeeps by a Headingley committee man. Again the school has produced an outstanding scrum half. More recently Richard Metcalfe has represented Northumberland under 12's, Kevin Young has been a

key member of Sale and Gary Demaine has had an extraordinary record in Morley's pack, never missing a first team game for three years. Many have been mentioned in this brief report but in the space available it has been impossible to give credit to the very many other excellent players who have contributed to a very high standard of Rugby over the years.

MEMORIES

The favourite staff-dispensed detention in the early years was "to polish the wooden benches in the labs." - more muscle-building for the scrum.

SCHOOL SPORT- CRICKET

D. Worth was captain of the first School team which played seven Under 13 fixtures in 1934. They made a disappointing start but did manage to win a close match against Silcoates by seven runs.

A stalwart in those early days was K. Hertonstall who became a penetrating bowler taking 28 wickets at an average of 5.56 in 1938, his final year.

After the war there was still only moderate success under the captaincy of B. Thompson. Leeds Central were bowled out for 10, C. Cluderay taking 4 for 4 and G. Kale 6 for 6. Kale took 39 wickets at an average of 6.8 that season.

Cricket - Can anybody identify the date?

With much the same team in 1951 the school did even better. Bryon Roberts set up a School record with 77 wickets in the season. C. G. Naylor was a leading member of this team and claimed 26 victims as wicketkeeper. Naylor was captain of the 1952 team in whch Harry Tolley was an accomplished all-rounder later to captain the first XI.

1953 saw the emergence of Ken Hardman and Jack Birkenshaw in the junior teams and both played in a successful 1955 team captained by Tolley. Although only 15, Birkenshaw was a regular first teamer. In his own age group he distinguished himself by captaining Yorkshire and the North of England. This era marked one of the highspots in School cricket. With the pavilion now in use and a ground envied by many club sides and with a really good fixture list there was every incentive for boys to get into the teams.

Birkenshaw was widely tipped for further honours. His all-round skill was awesome against schoolboys. As a batsman he had few equals although a certain Geoffrey Boycott was showing similar talent for Hemsworth G.S., one of our rival schools. As an off-spinner Birkenshaw was peerless. On one ocasion he took 5 for 4 with Tony Morley taking 5 for 5 at the other end to dismiss Barnsley for 9.

On June 11th 1958 Jack Birkenshaw played for Yorkshire against Nottinghamshire after some excellent performances with the County 2nd XI. With Ray Illingworth and Brian Close in the team, Birkenshaw's opportunities with Yorkshire were restricted and he moved to Leicestershire in 1961. He made five Test appearances for England, never letting them down, and again the success of Illingworth prevented further Test honours. Later the two worked in harmony when Illingworth also joined Leicestershire.

Altogether Birkenshaw scored over 12,000 runs in First class cricket, took over 1,000 wickets and took over 300 catches to become surely the most successful sportsman the School has produced.

The next outstanding era for the School cricket team was in the middle and late sixties with a team dominated by Andrew Townsley and Peter Lloyd. As relative youngsters in the first team they beat a good staff team almost on their own in 1966. Another epic victory was gained when they played for the under 15's against the First team and beat them. Townsley took 7 for 9 on that occasion but it was as a batsman that he really stamped his authority on the Yorkshrie and Bradford League scene after leaving School.

Andrew Townsley was a prolific run scorer for the Yorshire 2nd team and was awarded his 'Colts' cap. He became the second RGS boy to play for Yorkshrie and appeared in both the Championship and the Sunday League. Many observers felt that Townsley was unlucky not to be given an extended trial in the County team and that he had the ability to establish himself as a regular member of the team.

When he and Lloyd were in the same Rothwell team it was rare that the middle order batsmen were called upon.

More recently cricket has declined as a school sport. The reorganisation of 1974, when the once excellent cricket square was lost, did not help. At junior level, however, cricket continues to flourish and many of our middle school players have been involved with the highly successful Carlton Junior team coached by Pal Stanyard, himself an old scholar of RGS who was a leading member of school cricket and rugby teams in the early sixties.

County honours went to Richard Walker who was a prominent member of the Yorkshire Schoolboys team and played Yorkshire league cricket with Castleford.

1993 saw the first cricket match for a number of years. The School hopes this will be the start of a brighter future for cricket in the area.

SCHOOL SPORT - GENERAL

Athletics has never seriously rivalled Rugby and Cricket as a major school sport but there have been some outstanding performers over the years, both in the School Sport when it was held on the old cinder track and in District and County Championships. D. Worth was one of the first to show promise both at cross country running and on the track with a 440 yards record of 67.8. Just before the war W. Jones distinguished himself by winning 5 events and in the same year - 1938 - J. Bower set a mile record of 6-15.7 but three years later C. L. Roughton had reduced it to a very respectable 5-25.

J.W. Lister was Victor Ludorum in 1948 with Beatrice Hartley winning the Girls' award. The following year Lister was even more impressive winning the 100 yards (10.7), 220 (23.5) and 440 (53.5), all of which would rate highly today.

Margaret Hollor gave a brilliant display on Long Jumping in the 1950 Sports Day winning the under 15 event with 15ft 9 ½ ins. which beat the record by over 2 feet and also beat the open record for the event.

1953 saw K. Hardman, L. Jennings, D. Wood, R. Lockwood, D. Fox, M. Haley among the Boys and E. Conner, L. Willows, C. Sidebottom, G. Poppleton and G. Archer in the Girls' events represent the District in the Yorkshire Schools Championship. The following year Patricia Gibson won the Senior Javelin, Peter Harvey the Senior Long Jump, and Derek Fox the Junion Javelin at the Yorkshire Championships. Molly Whitworth represented Yorkshire in the English Schools Championships. It was a vintage period for the school sport generally.

In the late 50's Keith Howe was an outstanding High Jumper who was Victor Ludorum in various age groups but perhaps the School's most outstanding athlete was Christine Bradley in the 60's. She was already showing outstanding ability as a Junior winning the 100 yards in 12.8 and reducing this to 12.5 as an Intermediate and 12.0 as a Senior, all records. In 1967 she took third place in the English Championships at Peterborough, the best on record from an RGS pupil at that exalted level. Ironically, Christine often finished second in local events for at Stanley was perhaps an even more talented sprinter, Denise Ramsden, who went on to compete in Olympic, Commonwealth and European Games. The two of them formed half of some unbeatable Yorkshire relay teams of that era.

Soccer has never been an offical School sport although some pupils have achieved success. It is interesting to quote a piece from an old Rodillian magazine - guess the year! - reflecting attitudes to the game.

SOCCER STARS

Malcolm Mayhew, now an Associate Member of the Chartered Insurance Institute, is this year's captain of the Rothwell Athletic Association Football Club.

This news reminds one that several Old Boys have changed over to soccer after leaving school, some of them with no little success. Indeed, Phil Wilshaw, now playing at full-back for Batley Rugby League, was turning out at centre-forward with Halifax Town whilst still at school!

The present writer recalls that when in his first year at RGS he dared to mention the word "Soccer", he was told by the then games master: "If Soccer is ever played at Rothwell it will be over my dead body!" The same master would not even allow pupils to play Soccer at lunch-time.

Wayne Goodison, a member of the Cup-winning Rugby team of 1980-81, became a professional with Barnsley Football Club. Steve Mulraine starred for the England Schools team scoring a goal at Wembley before injury halted a promising career, whilst Dean West is currently playing for Lincoln. Simon Portrey (Ipswich), Nathan Drury (Notts Forest) and Paul Arkle (Barnsley) are all hoping for professional careers.

Among other recent leavers were the Davy twins, Mark and Karl, both good all round athletes who have become professional boxers along with Dean Marsden who was in the same year. Carl Gaffney has also made a name of himself as a leading British Heavyweight.

Swimming used to play a big part in School sport more on a personal improvement rather than competitive level. In the 1970's Mary Reape and Robert Woodcock both achieved County honours in this very demanding and time-consuming sport. Julian Hargreaves was outstanding in another 'minority' sport, Gymnastics. Despite a demanding A-level course, Julian won National titles in his age group and gained International Honours both in this country and abroad.

From time to time sports are introduced because of the enthusiasm of a particular teacher. Basketball was one such sport in the late 70's. The team, captained by Ian Waddelow, started with novices but quickly became good enough to win the Leeds Schools League. The sixth form group had an infectious enthusiasm, coaching and officiating as well as playing and at one time 150 members of the school were playing competitive bastetball.

During the last ten years school sport has continued to diversify. Mark Wright, after competing in the 200 metres at the English Schools Championship, went on to gain County and England B honours.

On the Rugby League front, we have at present four pupils with their names on Academic teams books as well as Lynton Morris having played for Wakefield Trinity and Steven McCurrie having played for Widnes in the Rugby League final at Wembley.

In 'minority' sports, Paul Holstead has achieved Black Belt standard at Judo, Scott Broadhead won a bronze medal in the European Diving Championship and Gemma Longbottom and Wayne Halligan reached Yorkshire standard at Badminton.

Lucy Ward, who left in 1992, made an outstanding contribuition to school sport and played for England U/18 womens soccer team and is now a member of the full England Squad.

SCHOOL SPORT - GIRLS

Details of girls games are rather brief. Documentation in past magazines is not detailed as for the boys and changes of name on marriage make it difficult to identify certain old Scholars.

An enthusiastic start was made in 1934 on a new field maintained in 'splendid condition' by Mr. Merry. The enthusiasm was not matched by results, the best of the under 14 fixtures being a 1-1 draw against Ackworth School. The first victory came shortly afterwards with a 3-0 win over Castleford and a double was completed with a 4-0 in the return match.

After the war, hockey and tennis became really well established with good fixture lists. Barbara Silvester took over in 1949 and these are some of her reflections between then and

Girls Netball and Hockey - 1981

1966.

"In 1949, I entered the portals of Rothwell Grammar School as a young, inexperienced, but enthusiastic P.E. teacher. I stayed there for seventeen years, a statement which I think tells its own story.

During these very happy years, I taught hundreds of girls the delights which the many aspects of P.E. offer and so many of them rewarded me in bringing to the School many honours and successes. Unfortunately, I an unable to name every girl who brought these honours to the School nor all successes they achieved, but as the girls of my 'era' read this article, I know that they will remember.

They will recall our sucesses in Batley Hockey Rallies on the wind-blown hockey fields situated high above the town itself, and winning the cup on several occasions at Hemsworh Rally. Our teams gained a reputation in the West Riding for their hockey prowess and many of our girls were selected to play for Wakefield and District Hockey XI. Our standard of hockey improved year by year and I can remember the occasion when we were granted a fixture with Wakefield Girls' High School in the days of Miss Benson and the pride we felt in such an achievement! How much we all enjoyed our journeys to away matches in Mr. Rayfield's bus and paid our sixpences for the pleasure of playing hard, bruising games of hockey - shall we ever forget?

Many matches were won both in tennis and rounders and some of you will remember the days when we experienced the luxury of playing tennis on grass courts, which were carefully tended by our groundsman, Mr. Horsfall. Girls actually volunteered to come on Saturday morning to umpire our tennis matches and first years clamoured to come and act as ball boys (or is it ball girls?)

Do your remember the cinder running track which encircled our hockey pitch? I'm sure some of you will never forget trying to gain standards for your different Houses. Then there were the exciting District Sports, when the different schools in the area competed and again our teams achieved success on many occasions. Finally, the climax of the Athletic Season, the Wakefield and District Trials, which were held in order to select girls and boys to represent this area in the Yorkshire Schools' Athletic Championships. From the results of those championships a team was selected to represent Yorkshire in the All England Championships. Even though we were quite a small school, several girls achieved the honour of being selected to participate on this wonderful occasion - Eileen Conner, Molly Whitworth, Joyce Smart, Joan Hartley, Ann Quarmby and many apologies to others whom I have forgotten by name.

These numerous successes I shall never forget; they are part of my life. I only hope that every girl who was a member of any of the school teams in my years at Rothwell will remember their achievement with pride and pleasure. I shall never forget you or, as a result, the great affection I felt for Rothwell Grammar School and the honour of being a member of its staff."

MEMORIES

Trying to cope with elderly ladies emerging from retirement and young ladies fresh out of college when most of the male staff had been called up into the forces.

OLD BOYS' RUGBY

The first ever Old Boys' game was against the School in October 1938. Several members of staff played for the school, who lost 0-5. The Old Boys played several other games and acquired a field near the railway line at Robin Hood, but the war put an end to any further progress.

The Old Scholars' Association carried on through the war, even if its activities were restricted to an annual New Year's Eve Dance. With the end of hostilities the OSA expanded somewhat, even producing a twice-yearly Magazine. A Badminton Club met once a week, sometime having to call on Mr. Kirby, the caretaker, to make up a four!

Around 1950 the annual rugby match with the School was resumed. Several Old Boys played with local senior clubs and the Old Scholars were usually a little too strong for the School - even in its Ilkley 7's year when it went undefeated in school matches.

At the end of the 1958 season the Old Boys played 4 games against club sides, resplendent in new jerseys provided by the Old Scholars' Association, by now almost defunct. Three wins and a draw in these games resulted in the Rods starting up again in 1960 with a ground at Lofthouse and changing rooms at the Rose and Crown. The early seasons were quite successful particularly 1962-3 when the side was undefeated, scoring 700 points against 55. Ken Hardman ran in 50 tries in a back division which also included Keith Howe, Mark Haley, Roy Place, Brian Hand, Barry Marley and Geoff Glendenning.

In 1963-4 the Rods reached the 6th round of the Yorkshire Cup before going down by a point at Goole. As some of the original players retired there were a couple of mediocre seasons before in 1966-7 they reached the final of the shield, going down 6-14 to Sheffield University, despite scoring two tries to one. Mick Haigh, one of the club's best and most popular players was the skipper that season.

The 1968-9 side was a particularly good one. In December the club moved to the ground behind the Coach and Horses in Robin Hood, where they had a thrilling Yorkshire Cup quarter-final against Roundhay, being a little unfotunate to lose 6-9. Steve Calline was at full-back, with two speedy wingers in Mick Wrigglesworth and Alan Smith, fine centres in Ian Salisbury and Mick Gledhill, a splendid half-back partnership of John Cockill and Peter Hardman and hard-working pack, with Mick Haigh and Mick Snowden outstanding.

For the next two seasons the Rods played at the old Lofthouse Cricket Club ground, soon to be sacrificed for the M62 motorway. About this time the Rods acquired 11 acres of land at Lee Moor and set about the task of raising money to level and seed the ground and build a clubhouse. A loan was obtained from the Rugby Football Union and a grant from the Department of Education and Science, and club members raised the balance by a miscellany of efforts. The new ground was christened Manley Park and officially opened by Mrs. Manley before a game against a Yorkshire representative side in September 1971.

In 1972-3 the Rods had their second Yorkshire Shield triumph, beating Pontefract 16-9 after extra time - again at Morley. There was a good cup run in 1973-4 before losing to Wakefield in an excellent game at College Grove. 1974-5 was another good season with only 5 defeats including a 6-8 Cup disappointment against Bradford. Steve Calline scored 240 points in this season, almost reaching his club record of 270 in 1970-1.

Two or three good seasons included a fine 10-3 Cup win over Hull and ER, but towards the end of the 70's, the side began to feel the effect of losing several key players. The introduction of a Colts' side brought some new blood to the club but in recent years there has been a lowering of playing standards and a succession of disappointing results.

The Rods has been an open club since 1970, but has always kept its links with the school, which it congratulates on its 50th birthday.

New players are always welcome at any rugby club, but the Rods would be particularly grateful for assistance off the field, especially from ex-players. If you like pleasant company and a good pint, there is a place for you at Manley Park.

CAMPS

Camps have a history as old and continuous as the School itself. Their forms and to some extent their purpose have changed but old friends still talk of their experiences. For many, camp became almost a way of life and the social and educational influences are incalculable.

They were started in the first year to provide cheap holidays, the experience of living under canvas away from home but in a well-regulated community, sharing chores, making one's own entertainment and seeing new areas. Mixed camps caused some eyebrows to be raised in 1933-4 but the rules were laid down and still hold good; costs were kept incredibly low, effort to obtain support where it was known to be needed. A local site for experience was followed by camps (some for scouts) at Malham, Sandsend, Edale, Conwy, Filey and Goathland.

The war put an end to the sequence but soon Tardebigge became home from home for fruit-picking and harvesting camps, with two wet harvest camps at Fountains besides. Mr. Manley reported that between 1941 and 1945 there were 32 weeks of agricultural camp attended by 30-80 pupils at a time.

After the war spud and sugarbeet bashing for a week continued the harvest work for a number of years, but holiday camps were back on the calendar - at Grasmere, Kettleness and Marske. A series of walking camps in the Lakes began in 1947, jealously kept by the boys as their own special weeks for walking and swimming in the tarns, and as bitterly resented by those girls who knew they could walk as well as any boy.

But Mr. Manley was not content. He wanted to combine the benefits of camping with studies in the field, and at Malham in 1948 and Ingleton in 1949 with Mr. Hobbs and Mr. Metcalfe, pupils learned by direct observation and by effort up Ingleborough and down Hardraw Kin some of the features of limestone country. The second week at Ingleton was again a holiday camp but the transition had been made: field studies camps had come and were to continue and grow steadily.

The Stratford camps began in 1950 and hundreds of former pupils must recall the rush along the old tram way to arrive at the Theatre before curtain up and the effort to stay awake in the hot balcony after long hours of working and perhaps sleeping in the fresh air, as well as brass rubbing by selftaught experts at Clifford, Warwick, Wellesbourne and Wixford, discovering what scarp slopes were by cycling up from the Vale to the High Cotswolds or making detailed studies of the Stratford Canal - "It stinks and it's covered wi' green."

A run in Mr. or Mrs. Manley's dog-wagon over snow covered Holme Moss to look for a site near Conwy led to the discovery that the Morfa was still littered with barbed wire and the concrete remains of anti-invasion defences, but then to Hendre Fawr, our first site in Conwy Valley where so many friendships were established with farmers and shopkeepers. The site,

with easy access to Conwy and to the surrounding hills, its views of purple slopes, the "volcano" where latrines were set up, and on occasion overturned under the "lava tree", still conjures up fond memories. The second, at Baclaw gave ever-changing glimpses of the tidal Conwy and engineering problems to establish level tables in the cook-tent; it mattered less that sleeping tents were also on a slope: bodies could always roll safely! The third site, happily still used, brought its own surprise - the arrival of pupils each evening by taxi. The late evening bus from Conwy had been withdrawn, but enterprising Rodillians found that a taxi was cheaper anyway and delivered them to the tent door before supper and roll call. How many have climbed Snowdon (on a so-called free day) and learned to love or hate the mountains, walked the Roman Road above Roewen, paddled in the Afon Roe to study river development, been on Mr. Shaw's tours of the castle that attracted other visitors, or painted at Llangelynin? Conwy has proved time and time again how pupils and teachers can make their own very real and personal observations and then turn to text books to understand more fully what they have already seen, heard or smelled. There, too, in 1956 we found that camp could win favour with full inspection by Her Majesty's Inspector in the district and by the H.M..I. who organised the full report on School.

Rainow in 1956 with its persistent Pennine rain brought fewer opportunities for field work but so much practice in camp craft that staff and pupils who could say "I was there", knew more about beating the weather than almost any others. Whitby in 1957 began the exploration of Robin Hood's Bay, the valleys off Eskdale and "th'oils in t'riuns", but although the short journey helped to keep travel costs down and so contributed to the replacement of canvas and equipment the very nearness seemed to make the site less attractive to pupils than Conwy or Stratford. Other sites which have come into favour - Bath in 1972 and 1975, Seahouses in 1976 for the first time and Ludlow in 1978 - have given access to new fields of study - Roman and Georgian periods, early Industrial Revolution growth, birds of the coast and kipper smoking. They are earning the approval of new generations of pupils and staff and creating their own histories and mythologies.

Like school, camp has seen changes - long sessions of spud bashing have gone as convenience foods have altered the catering and made possible the feeding of more campers; telephone calls have replaced the compulsory postcard, (usually written at home!) and food parcels have gone, as have the ration books of post-war camps; gas stoves and cookers mean that no one need know the magic incantations to charm the primus stoves; cars and minibuses have been viewed with scorn by those who knew no camp-based transport, only shanks' pony up the waterfall path to the Ingleton site or the long, kitbag-loaded treks to Stratford station, the mad changes at Birmingham or the swinging carriages to Whitby; orderlies no longer endure the long day of toil from that rude awakening by "Sir" to the post-supper efforts to clean cocoa jugs by the light of hurricane lamps. But the comradeship, the sharing of a bedroom-cum-eating room tent with 6 - 10 others, the brief quiet of a junior first night between the last one going to sleep and the first one waking up, the reality of seeing things for ones self, of making one's own record or maps, of having pigs or some other convenient scapegoat trample over one's painting, of developing new relationships with staff or the occupants of almshouses in Campden or elsewhere, of learning to respect the Welshhills or the North Yorks. Moors - these endure.

We all have our special memories: we rejoice that camp goes on - I could murder a cup of camp cocoa right now, but we could never make the real stuff in the kirchen at home, and it's lonely at home after camp.

MEMORIES

I was there during the period 1944-49, when Miss Hartley was Senior Mistress and gosh did she keep us on our toes! I and a school friend, Pat Massey (that was) lived in the same village as Miss Hartley. As there was no transport in those days between school and Thorpe we had the pleasure of walking to and from school. As it happened we had to pass the abode of Miss Hartley and her sister, who owned about 8 or 9 cats. Guess what Pat and I had the very important duty of doing - carrying a bucket of the day's dinner waste from the school and dropping it off at the house - presumably to feed the cats. We did this for a number of years, cursing most times as you can imagine. However, I do feel that my trouble was rewarded, because when Peter and I got married she sent us a beautiful set of jugs, bless her - what a character she was. I guess many will remember her for the "indoor" and "outdoor" inspections she had so regularly and heaven help you if you didn't have an item necessary.

CAMP; STARTING TO LEARN

I sat down on Robin Hood's Bay station and smelled. I blamed the ridge and furrow. Of course, it wasn't ridge and furrow, it was the lack of technique. But how could they expect a little boy to be able to carry such a big - and what was worse - such a full latrine bucket quite so far? It was bound to come out over the top at some stage. Anyway, why did they insist on emptying the latrines the minute before were were due to set out for the day? It wouldn't have been so bad if I'd had time to change my shorts and socks. But no, I only just had time to get near to the front of the queue to make sure I got two pilchard sandwiches rather than one cheese and one ham, and then we were off. I dried out by mid-afternoon, but my sense of injustice was whetted for life. It's not important who "they" were, but they were responsible for the first step in my political education.

Hold on, though, it wasn't supposed to be my political education that was being stimulated by my first camp, but rather what is now fashionably known as 'environmental education'. You see, I didn't learn only about injustice (or what I thought was injustice - I realised later that I had been sharing in tasks which, otherwise, someone else would have done for me without my ever noticing). Whilst I was drying out at Robin Hood`s Bay, I also learned about the geology that produced one of the most attractive landscapes in the country. I learned how gold-covered fossils were trapped between bands or rock. I learned how some of those rocks - alum -shales - were used as a fixative for colour dyes. I learned what crops were grown in the fields nearby. I learned how the fishing village was sheltered from the cold northerly winds. I learned why the houses in he village were built of limesone and why they were arranged along narrow winding alleyways. I learned why the fishing boats took particular shapes and where they were built. I painted them. And I never forgot.

Next day, and rather more questionably, I also learned what was meant to be 'advice for life'. Walking on the hills, i heard my elders and betters repeatedly muttering the incantation "Never Lose Height". All very well, but in my innocence, an outside to the secrets and myths that were always a part of camp. I wondered how on earth we would ever get down from the hills if we never lost height. A few years later, it clicked.

Whilst it is all too easy in a nostalgic mood to overstate the significance of some past

enjoyment, there is no doubting the cold, factual benefits of camp. For how many people was camp their introduction to a life-long love of mountains, falls, rivers and lakes; of historic towns, villages and old buildings; of theatre; of painting; of really seeing for the first time - and not just seeing, but beginning to understand how the world around us is put together and how it works?

Camp cannot, though, be assessed in terms of cold facts. Its unique qualities were centred on people's vision - vision at times pursued with an intense fervour fed in equal parts by deeply felt convictions and, I think, by lack of sleep. But camp was mainly about enjoyment, it thrived on laughter, singing, silly stories, hilarious misunderstandings, and perhaps, occasional misery.

Camp retained its character through a period of some of the greatest social changes in history. It saw, for instance, the change from the days when cigarettes were sprayed liberally from hand to mouth around the cook tent to the era of the single discreet cigar, quelling forever the rumours about whose ash had fallen off into the stew. (Did you ever wonder how that amount of stew went round all those people? Serving it was an act of almost Biblical achievement).

Year after year, looking at the field after camp had been taken down, I was always rather pleased at how quickly and how firmly the pattern of camp had been impressed on the ground. I liked to think that archaeologists examining the fields around Conwy, Stratford or Whitby might momentarily be confused by evidence of an early form of settlement where people lived in small circular or square huts, coming together along well trodden paths for ceremonial occasions in a large central long-house. Of course, the excavated contents of the burial holes revealing squashed A10 jam tins rather than human remains would give the game away, but not, perhaps, until after a few minutes conjecture about those primitive sanitation arrangements . . . boy slaves kept just for the purpose of carrying buckets. . .

CAMP IN THE 1980'S AND 1990'S

School camp stands as one of, if not the, most important legacies of Rothwell Grammar School. The tradition and enthusiasm for camps lives on and is as strong as ever in the modern Rodillian school. Since comprehensivisation in the mid-1970's its importance for social and personal development has been recognised as vital in the education of all pupils. Although our children today experience and enjoy a much wider range of opportunities for travel and visits both home and abroad, camp still continues to provide them with a unique and alternative view of the world around them.

No doubt traditionalists might think the modern Rodillian pupils are cosseted and "mollycoddled" with new technology such as individual toilet tents with chemical toilet, sleeping 5 to a tent, and dining and picnic tables, and of course the sacrilege of a mini bus. Though it must be said that some pupils still do not believe you when they find there is no where for them to plug in their hair dryers. Virtually gone are the days of spud bashing, but IN are such culinary delights as Lasagne, Rhogan Gosht, and Chilli Con Carni. Todays camp food would grace anyone's dinner table. Remarkable to say that it's still all done in a tent in the middle of a field and on occasions battling against the mud and elements. The superb

quality is testimony to the expertise and stamina of the staff cooks and their pupil helpers who have been so ably trained over the years by Joan Gater (Nee Strickland) who maintains her enthusiasm and commitment to camp despite early retirement. Similarly Jennifer Ward (Nee Preston) approaches camp with the same unerring joy and love for it which infects all around her, both pupils and staff, with the same enthusiasm.

A look at the camp inventory today reads like a major military operation. 2 marquees, 15 tents, Double Gas Cooker, 2 water boilers, 120 camp stools, 20 tables, and so it goes on. All loaded into 2 three ton lorries and erected by 4 staff in just 3 days! Last year some 250 pupils accompanied by 30 staff over three weeks took part in the camp at Seahouses located on an idyllic site overlooking the shore. This year we return to Much Wenlock in Shropshire to the cradle of the Industrial Revolution, and in 1994 we return to Conwy.

To those of us who remember Eric Sale, at camp it's not quite the same and since his early retirement he has been sadly missed. But camp goes on from strength and, we hope, develops on those firm foundations laid so long ago by Mr. Manley. We hope that he would still recognise those essential values of cooperation, team work, adaptability and enjoyment of the outdoors which he set over 50 years ago despite the fact that the average age of the staff who take part keeps on increasing, itself a reflection of the wealth of experience and expertise which the same school can boast. The continued success of camp reflects the enormous commitment and enthusiasm of the staff who are determined to maintain it despite the constantly increasing pressures of National Curriculum testing. Indeed it would be only circumstances beyond the school's control which would ever stop what is our most valuable extra curricular asset.

MEMORIES

For the sum of sixpence a very good meal was provided. Sometimes unusual food was served as an experiment. On one occasion junket was served as a sweet and I am confident when I say that not 1% of the scholars ate it.

As a child of twelve, one of my most frightening experiences was during a thunder-storm at the Stratford-upon-Avon site. We returned at night along a cart track; only the grassy area in the middle could be walked upon - the track was awash with water on our return. Our Woolworth's plastic macs dripped in the tent and we found that one groundsheet was completely water logged, so eight of us had to sleep in one half of the tent. The lightning flashed and we cowered away from the metal tent pole on which hung our dripping clothes.

Strange beings paraded the field - a man called 'Sucker' in black "Laceless' pumps and a tropical ex-army monsoon cape with his troop of diggers (old-scholars) who worked ceaselessly to dig a network of canals and drainage ditches around the tents. Figures like Dick, Bart, Nev, and Bob worked through the night to surprise us with their drainage systems. The early morning sunshine brought parents on visits and one school governor was delicately told to 'Leave that kit alone' by the Camp Commandant - Sucker himself - irate after sleepless nights and agitated by a fussing mother worrying about a wet sock when he had one hundred sleeping bags to consider.

Stratford camp under the leadership of E.R. Shaw, the famous artist and his fledgeling B. Ward flourished artistically. The barn walls on the camp site were completely covered by art work which was outstanding in variety and colour. Mr. Manley brought down droves

of school Inspectors, who, sufficiently impressed, endowed supplementary monies to subsidise artwork for the remainder of the camp.

I wonder if any these dignitaries visited the camp loos? Unfortunately, communal bogs seem to be a thing of the past. What companionship to sit with three companions in the rain contemplating the wet loo paper.

Today the camps are no less remarkable - pupils find friendships and socialisation which has no equal in ordinary classroom situations. Brian Picken during one torrential outburst of rain at Ludlow booked the local cinema. David Soul, the star of the film, had a few admirers that day as the group, dressed in wellingtons, kagouls and waterproof trousers slept or took full advantage of the cinema loos and enjoyed hot and cold water.

Camp brings out the commandant in all our leaders. Herr Cooke is the present official camp leader. These personalities assume different aspects under the awesome task of organisastion.

As a pupil, old scholar or teacher I must say that there is nothing like school camp - it is a rare phenomenon and very few other schools undertake such a task with such large numbers of pupils. Staff commitment is great but a lot of satisfaction comes out of the work. All learning should be done on site where the motte and bailey castle can be observed or the wonders of marine biology can be identified, recorded and noted.

Long may it continue.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Many pupils have entered through the doors of Rothwell Grammer/Rodillian School and many have gone on to play significant roles in the community in which they built their lives while others are now much further afield such as:- Rothwell, Wakefield, Leeds, Yorkshires towns and villages, London and the Home Counties, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand. We are always interested to know of the successes and fortunes of past pupils and we have recently, for example, had contact with Clifford Allen, the first Head Boy, and Alan Hewlett, who was a pupil at the school and became the first School Secretary. The Old Scholars Association has welcomed to their meetings past pupils from Australia, South Africa and Canada. The biographies of past pupils now presented is an arbitrary list gleaned from many wide and varied sources. We would welcome more information from or about the illustrated subjects included and particularly about other past pupils of both Rothwell Grammar School and Rodillian School.

THE BARONESS DENTON OF WAKEFIELD CBE

Appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Small Firms, Consumer Affairs and Design at the Department of Trade and Industry following the General Election of 9 April 1992. Lady Denton is DTI's spokesman in the House of Lords and the Department's Minister with special responsibility for Yorkshire.

Jean Denton graduated from the London School of Economics. she has worked mainly in marketing, latterly in the Motor Industry, first as Marketing Director of the Huxford Group then of Heron Motor Group. In 1980 she became Managing Director of Herondrive, a supplier of company cars with a turnover of £45 million. Five years later she was appointed Director of External Affairs for Austin Rover, responsible for the

Company's worldwide image. Simultaneously she was a Non-Executive Director with Ordnance Survey.

For three years from 1968, Lady Denton was a Professional Racing and Rally Driver and was twice British Women Racing Drivers Champion. She is Vice President of the British Women's Racing Driver's Club.

Lady Denton was previously a member of the Engineering Council, chairing the Finance Committee, a Governor of the London School of Economics and a Council member of the Royal Society of Arts, chairing the Women's Advisory Group.

In May 1992, The Prime Minister appointed Lady Denton Co-Chairman of the Women's National Commission, the Government Appointed body charged with ensuring that women's views are taken into account in Government policy-making. In addition, Lady Denton has been appointed to the Ministerial subcommittee on women's issues.

NEIL BENNETT

Neil attended Rothwell Grammar School between 1965 and 1972 and in his final year was Deputy Head Boy and Captain of the !st XV School Rugby team. The school team in 1971/72 was a particularly successful one and for Neil culminated in his regualr selection for the Yorkshire Schools Under 19 Group and inclusion in North of England School Trials.

It was whilst he was at school that Neil played his first game for Wakefield Rugby 1st XV in 1971 aged 17. He went on to play 504 1st team games and scored 250 tries in a career that spanned some 18 years. He played in 5 Yorkshire Cup Finals, winning 3 cup medals, and played for his county 17 times between 1975 and 1979. He also played for the North Eastern Counties versus Australia in 1975 and for England U23 against the England Students in 1976. He also made 2 appearances for the North of England trials in 1976 and 1978.

Neil suffered a broken leg in 1987 whilst playing rugby, only 11 games short of 500 1st team games for Wakefield; however, he fought his way back to fitness and in December 1988 reached the magic number. He captained the Wakefield 2nd XV in the season 1988/90 but had to retire from rugby in 1990 due to a knee injury.

Whilst at school he played cricket and basketball and was always a regular member of the school athletics teams. He was House sports captain and District sports team captain. In 1970 he was the district Pentathlon winner and an individual school trophy winner on more than one occasion.

He also held records in the 400 yards and senior 100 metres.

P.S. Neil is now a family man with two children, Caroline aged 9 and Mark aged 8!

SIR HUGH FISH CBE

Hugh Fish was born at Woodlesford in 1923 and attended Rothwell Grammar School from 1933 to 1938. He then became laboratory assistant at the school. In 1940 he joined Unilver as a management trainee and after qualifying at the intermediate science level of London University he joined the Royal Navy, serving between 1941 and 1946 as Ordinary Seaman in the battleship Duke of York and later as Lieutenant in Fleet destroyers. During his war service he and Nancy Asquith, an old scholar, were married, and his sister Rita and Nancy's brothers, Harry and John, became pupils at the school. Following war service he became a full-time student at Leeds University, graduating in Chemistry in 1949, and joined the West Riding Rivers Board as an analytical chemist. In 1944 Nancy delivered the

School's first 'grandson' Robert, unfortunately now deceased. Their second son John is a consultant engineer and their youngest child Sally is now a chartered surveyor.

He then spent 35 years in the water industry, working as a water scientist and latterly as the Chief Executive of Thames Water Authority (1978 to 1984). In 1984 he was appointed Chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council, the UK's principal organisation for supporting anmd carrying out research in the environment sciences. He retired from that office in September 1988 on completion of a major reorganisation of the Council's activities and management. He was a member of the Advisory Board for the Research Councils (1984 to 1988) and of the Management Board of the British National Space Centre (1986 to 1988). Formerly President of the Institution of Water Engineers and Scientists, he is currently the President of the Institute of Fisheries Management, a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and a Fellow of the Institution of Water and Environment Management.

His main input to the water industry was his contribution to cleaning-up the River Thames and the successful re-introduction of salmon therein; in advising the Government on the creation and management of the water authorities and later the National Rivers Authority; and in originating fundamentally new methods of improving river quality. He was awarded the OBE in 1971, the CBE in 1984, and Knighted in 1989.

Sir Hugh was a member of the National Rivers Authority from 1989 to 1991 and Chairman of Water Engineering Ltd. from 1988 to 1991. He now works part-time as an environmental consultant to Robert Fish and Partners and to other firms. He is a Trustee of the Thames Salmon Trust and the Water Education Trust. He has written many papers on the natural science of water and his book entitled 'The Principles of Water Quality Management' was published in 1974.

KENNETH WILLIAM MARRIOT BEM

Attended Rothwell Grammar School from September 1942 to July 1947. Qualified for school by scholarship from Thorpe Council School.

In 1947 after leaving school, moved to Devon where he was employed by the Express Dairy Company as a trainee vehicle fitter pending National Service. He then served in the Royal Artillery and Royal Electrical and Mechanical Enginers from May 1950 to May 1952. He returned to Express Dairy on completing his National Service but left in 1953 to join the Royal Air Force where over a period of time he was employed as a vehicle mechanic and latterly as a driver's mechanic Instructor on heavy vehicles and cranes.

He married in 1956 and left the Royal Air Force to settle in civilian life in 1958. During this time he worked as a mechanic for Ford distributors and also British Road Services. This lasted until 1960, when wanderlust took over and he returned to the Royal Air Force, this time with the intention of making it his career. He continued in the Transport Department in varying facets of the trade and in many locations with several overseas postings and detachments. He retired in 1987 with the rank of sergeant at the full career age.

During his career, he was commended by the Air Officer Commanding 38 Group in 1979 and was awarded the British Empire Medal in 1986.

Since leaving the Royal Air Force, he has been in the service of the Ministry of Defence at Brize Norton. In 1992, he was awarded the commendation of the Air Officer Commander in Chief Strike Command.

His hobbies are researching the history of Royal Air Force motor vehicles since 1945 and vintage vehicle restoration.

EDITH FIRTH (nee SCANLAN) and COLIN FIRTH

Edith attended RGS between and 1941 and 1949 and Colin attended btween 1943 and 1948.

The two met whilst sharing a Latin primer (books were scarce during the war). Colin went to Sheffield University and read Chemistry; Edith went to Whitelands College, London, to study Infant teaching. The two married while Colin was in the army and Edith was teaching in Robin Hood. From 1954 to 1958, Colin taught Chemistry at Stand Grammar, Bury and Edith taught at Sedgley Park. John was born during this time. Between 1958 and 1962 the family was in Barnet, Hertfordshire. Colin was Head of Chemistry at East Barnet Grammar, Edith was housewife. Ian and Susan joined the family during this period. Next came the move to Bristol; they were there from 1962 to 1973. Colin was Head of Science and later became Deputy Head at Bristol Grammar School. Edith did various part time jobs and eventually became Deputy Head at Shirehampton Infants. Timothy was born during this period. Now the family of six, moved to Colchester, Essex, where Colin was Head of Gilbert School and Edith the Head of St. George's Infants. They were in Colchester from 1973 to 1977. There followed a move back north to Cheshire where Colin became Head of Cheadle Hulme School and Edith the Head of Infants at Queen's Road Primary.

Following retirement in December 1989 Edith and Colin moved to Penrith, Cumbria. Here they spend their time visiting parents in Wakefield, keeping an eye on their children and grandchildren in Oxford, Birmingham, Cambridge and Tokyo. Their interests are trying to garden, play golf, sing and help folk at the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Their first sighting of Helvellyn was as members of an RGS party in 1946, now it dominates the view from their bedroom window.

DR. HARRY TOLLEY

Harry Tolley was a pupil at RGS from 1947 to 1955 where he was Head Boy and captain of Rugby and Cricket. After leaving school, he became a student at Leeds University (1955-60) where he obtained a BA Honours Degree 2(i) in Geography, an MA in Geomorphology and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE). He played rugby for the University, and gained representative honours with the Universities Athletics Union (UAU).

After leaving university he became at teacher at Rounday School, Leeds (1960-64) where he became a colleague of Mr. D.G. Morris, his former Geography master at RGS. He continued his rugby career with Headingley and was capped by Yorkshire. He also played cricket with Harth Leeds Cricket Club.

In 1964, he became a Lecturer in Geography at the City of Leeds and Carnegie College where he was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1968. In 1970 his first book, a school textbook on the Geography of Yorkshire, was published by Cambridge University Press. In 1972, he moved to Bristol University to become a Research Fellow working on a national curriculum development project in Geography funded by the Schools Council. In 1974, he became Project Director and a Chief Examiner in A-level Geography for the JMB.

In 1976, he returned north to lecture in Geography Education at Nottingham University where he continued to be involved in changes in the school curriculum and new developments in examining. His work at this period led to the publication of a large number of books and academic papers. In 1986, he was promoted to Senior Lecturer and Director of Initial Teacher

Training with responsibility for the Post Graduate Certificate in Education course.

In 1989, he left his full-time post at the University to work as a freelance consultant. He now works on research and development projects for organisations such as the Civil Servcie departments and agencies, the police service, the Council of Europe and the Commission for Racial Equality. In 1993, he was awarded a PhD by the University of Nottingham for his published work in the field of innovation in Education.

Harry Tolley is married and has two daughters and three grandchildren (so far). He met his wife Catherine, when they were both Geography students at Leeds University. She has just retired from her post as lecturer at a FE college in Nottingham.

IRIS CRAWFORD (nee KNOWLES) M.A. B.A.

Iris attended RGS betwen September 1933 and July 1939, before being offered a place at Avery Hill Training College. On failing medical examination, she returned to Leeds in January 1940. After attending Leeds College of Commerce, and achieving a teacher diploma in Shorthand and Typing, she became a secretary at the Educaion Department in Wakefield. In 1949, she became a Careers Guidance Counsellor in Morley before starting her world wide travels. Her first move was to the Youth Employment Office in Glasgow where she got married. She then held a number of Administrative posts in Nigeria, West Africa and Egypt until 1965. Shen then emigrated to Canada where she undertook a number of Medical Administrative posts after being awarded a Medical Secretary Diploma. Her career now took a turn to education after further study at McGill University. She taught between 1971 and 1985 while taking further higher qualifications. She retired in 1985 and now does voluntary work in Quebec's literacy programme.

Iris has many memories of Rothwell Grammar School, most of them very happy. There is one sad one ; she was asked to read the text from the Bible - "Greater love hath no man than that he lay down his life for his fellows' at the dedication of the plaque to old scholars who had lost their lives in the war. This was one of the hardest things she has ever had to do.

A selection of a restrictive list of other past pupils now follows :-

C. ALLEN	First Head Boy now retired.
A. BEAN	British Airways
B. BOOTH	Musical talent inc. past accompanist for Roy Oribison
M . BRIGGS	British Telecom Finance
E. CAINES K.B.	Ex National Director of DHSS now working at Nottingham University.
P. CLARKE	H..M.I.
V. CLEMENTS	Cert. of Prof. of Chartered Insurance Inst.
M . CONEY (nee TAYLOR)	First Woman Enginer Graduate of RGS, now in S. Africa
M. CROWTHER	Fine Artist/Lecturer - Cardiff
R. CUMIN	HNC Building Est. Leeds Metro. University
J. DALTON	Killed in war
D. DICKENSON (nee SYKES)	Technician and Member of Rodillian Governing Body
J. FIRTH	Headteacher
J. GATER (nee STRICKLAND)	Teacher until recently at Rodillian
C. GREAVES	Solicitor

GEOFF LINLEY and PHYLL LINLEY (nee GROVES)	Whickham
K. HARDMAN	Lecturer - Manchester President, International Society of Comparative PE and Sport
S. HEESON	B.A. course at Leeds University
A. FOX	Applied Biology course at Nottigham University
M. IDLE	Royal Institute of Chartered Surveryors - Kirklees
S. JAGGER (nee HAIGH)	Teacher - Rodillian
B . JENKINSON	Ex- Water Board, presently consultant
E. JONES	Graduate member of British Psychology Society presently studying for masters degree, Wolverhampton
I. McNAUGHT-DAVIES	Mountaineer, walker and writer
Dr. P. McWILLIAMS	First RGS boy to qualify at Medical School - General Practitioner
M. MASON	B. Sc York University
D. NELSON	Managing Director - Engineering Company, Australia
B. NEWTON	Headteacher - retired
J. LONGBOTTOM	B.Sc York University
S. OWEN	Professor, Town Planning at Gloucester Canada
R. PALEY	Head Girl RGS - teacher, Rodillian
M. PEARSON (nee WHITE)	Computer Systems Programmer
D. PLUMPTON	Cambridge (Medicine)
A. & R. SINGH	Artist
S. SYKES	First Head Girl
J. TATE	B.Sc Nottingham University
I. TURNER	Netherlands
H. VAN DER ZEE	Company Secretary
M. WALTERS	Technician - Rodillian
K. WALTON	Chairman of Rodillian Governors and Lecturer Leeds Metropolitan University
B. WARD	M.Phil.
J. WARD	Teacher - Rodillian
J. WARD (nee PRESTON)	Advertising
K. WATSON	B.A. Head of Art Department
G. WATSON	Killed in war
C. WILCOCK	Merchant seaman
B. WILLIAMS	

The next four ex-pupils attended the school between 1972 and 1979 and they have remained friends ever since :-

JANETTE BROOK	English teacher; married with 2 children, Zoe and Neil
ALLISON PROCTOR	Nursery Nurse; married with 2 childeren Patricia and Robert
JANET BUCK	Head of Humanities; 1 child, Jake and second child due

	in September
ALISON SHEARD	Coordinator of North West Housing Aid Centre, "Shelter", married with 2 children, Joseph and Isabelle

Although this is only a representative list, if included with past pupils mentioned in the booklet it illustrates the riches of achievements of pupils who have attended Rothwell Grammar School and Rodillian School. A record of which Mr. Manley, the five subsequent Headteachers and the local community can be proud. We have a fine tradition to follow. I am sure we will rise to the occasion.

NEC SPERNO NEC TIMEO